

Algerian delegation begins visit

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the Algerian National Transitional Council arrived in Amman Wednesday on a several-day visit during which it will meet with several officials. The talks will centre on issues of interest to Jordan and Algeria, Council Vice-chairman Hussein Haidar said. Mr. Haidar said he will brief the officials here on the latest developments in Algeria. "We hope to give the real picture of what is happening and the efforts exerted by President (Liamine) Zerrouk to serve Algeria's stability and to consult the people through presidential, parliamentary and other elections," said Mr. Haidar. He said ties between the Jordanian and Algerian parliaments were distinguished. The two sides are always seeking to enhance relations, he said. The delegation was received by First Deputy Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Hadi Al Majali, Assistant House Speaker Mohammad Al Huneiti and Algerian Ambassador to Jordan Hashemi Qaddouri.

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Switch to summer time on April 6/7

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will switch to energy-saving summer time as of Friday April 7, 1995, according to a communiqué issued Wednesday by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker. On Thursday April 6 midnight, clocks should be set one hour ahead, making the difference between Jordan local time and Greenwich Mean time three hours. The country will return to winter time as of Friday Sept. 15, the communiqué said.

Arabs want probe into Pan Am blast

CAIRO (AFP) — The Arab states will Thursday ask the U.N. Security Council to hold a new investigation to clear Libya of the Lockerbie bombing, the secretary general of the Arab League said. A seven-member Arab League committee drew up a resolution Wednesday calling on the Security Council to undertake a fresh inquiry "in light of recently published documents," Esmat Abdul Meguid said.

Vandenbroucke quits

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Belgian Foreign Minister Frank Vandenbroucke resigned Wednesday after being implicated in a bribery scandal, official sources said. His decision to step down came after he admitted being aware of a secret bank account allegedly used by his Flemish Socialist Party to hoard cash generated by bribes.

Cairo police break up protest

CAIRO (AP) — Anti-riot police dispersed about 80 students who planned a march Wednesday to protest Israel's participation in the Cairo International Trade Fair, police said. Police fired tear-gas at the campus in Cairo, but no injuries or arrests were reported, police officials said. This is the first time Israel has taken part in the annual trade fair since 1986 when a leftist group called Egypt's Revolution killed an Israeli embassy employee and wounded three others at the exhibition.

2 U.S. soldiers injured in Israel

TEL AVIV (AP) — Two U.S. troops were injured in an exercise in southern Israel Tuesday and were evacuated to an Israeli hospital, a U.S. embassy spokesman said. The injured troops were U.S. Marines and were injured during a massive ground manoeuvre in the desert, said an Israeli official. The troops were practising in Israel as part of joint manoeuvres that began last week and involves about 7,500 U.S. troops including Sixth Fleet ships, U.S. aircraft and Israeli ground and air forces.

7 lawmakers in Sudan dismissed

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's military leader dismissed seven senior lawmakers Wednesday following a heated parliamentary debate in which the government was accused of embezzling \$1 million and selling off profitable state enterprises. Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir replaced the committee leaders with former ministers and politicians, said the Middle East News Agency. The senior lawmakers had been appointed by the government. The dismissals came after a debate Tuesday in which a lawmaker, Amin Banani, attacked the government's programme to privatise state-owned companies, one of the reforms demanded by the International Monetary Fund. Mr. Banani said some of the firms that were sold off had made profits. Others were offered in hard currency, but paid for in Sudanese pounds, hampering the government's ability to pay off a crushing foreign debt of about \$14 billion.

Arab support falls short of Egypt's strategy on NPT

CAIRO (Agencies) — Arab League foreign ministers on Wednesday backed a resolution urging a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction, but rejected Egypt's strategy for pressuring Israel to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

After three hours of debate at the Arab League's 50th anniversary meeting, the ministers deleted language that would have urged a strong Arab stand against renewing the anti-nuclear pact unless Israel also signed the treaty.

Egypt has said it would not support renewal of the 25-year-old treaty when it comes before the United Nations next month and has been lobbying other Arabs to join forces.

A draft of an Arab League resolution, which is to be adopted formally Thursday, said the league supports the NPT as "an essential foundation for world order."

It also said Israel's nuclear arsenal — believed to contain up to 200 warheads — "poses a threat to regional security and to the credibility of the NPT." But it did not tie Arab backing for the nuclear treaty to Israel's signature.

Diplomats said the stronger wording was apparently dropped after lobbying by oil-rich Gulf states, which have been under American

pressure to back indefinite extension of the treaty. But the diplomats, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Arab League vote may also provide a graceful way for Egypt to back off its stand against the extension.

Egypt can maintain it took a strong stand on Israel's nuclear programme but in the end would have to go along with the 22-member Arab League, they said.

The Egyptian argument has been that Israel's refusal to sign the treaty is unreasonable when it is making peace with the Arabs. Israel has said it is willing to sign only after complete peace is achieved.

The issue of the nuclear treaty and bringing back Iraq into the Arab fold divided what many had hoped would be a celebration of the league's 50 years.

The league is spending nearly \$275,000 to mark the occasion with lectures and sporting events in other Arab capitals and an opera in Cairo that was commissioned to glorify Arab solidarity through the years.

In opening the meeting, however, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak told the foreign ministers that the league had not lived up to the promise of its founding in 1945.

"We have to be honest

with ourselves that all that has been established by the Arab League in different fields remains much less than the aspiration of our people," Mr. Mubarak said.

President Mubarak called for the establishment of an "Arab pact of honour" to prevent a repetition of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

"It would be useful to adopt an Arab pact of honour which would prevent the emergence of deep and destructive differences in the future," Mr. Mubarak said.

"The repercussions from the events of August 1990, which were a total national disaster, continue to block Arab reconciliation," he said.

Mr. Mubarak said such a pact would set out guidelines and "contain any differences in a framework to stop situations blowing up in the same way as in the past."

"Through the pact, all members of the Arab family would undertake to adopt a position likely to settle possible differences."

"Arab reconciliation is an urgent necessity. There is no other way to avert crises which block the construction of our nation than to rediscover our solidarity," he said.

Abdul Karim Kabariti, Jordan's foreign minister, urged a strong resolution on

the nuclear issue. "We demand that Israel should join the NPT. We support the Egyptian demand that the Middle East be a nuclear-free zone," he said.

Mr. Kabariti also stressed the need for a calm and objective dialogue among Arab countries to achieve common objectives.

Mr. Kabariti invited his counterparts to make the league's 50th anniversary celebrations the start of a new era in Arab relations.

"Let the 50th anniversary be the beginning of a new era of achieving progress and pursuing civilisation not an era of regression," Mr. Kabariti said.

"Let's start by holding a calm and objective dialogue to achieve our common objective, common interest and same prospects of security."

"We pursue peace and achieve it with others... but we do not pursue it nor try to achieve it among ourselves and with our brethren," Mr. Kabariti added.

"We don't have the strength nor the force without each other."

The foreign minister said that the prospects of Arab progress, though improved somehow in the immediate past years seem dim in the near future.

"If our situation at present



Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, Abdullah and Prince Faisal and senior officials are seen off upon their departure for Paris on Wednesday by Their Royal Highnesses Prince

King, Queen in Paris to meet Mitterrand en route to U.S.

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein arrived in Paris on Wednesday en route to the United States and Canada. In Paris, the King was to meet with President Francois Mitterrand before flying on to Los Angeles, where he will accept an award for peace, and then to Washington, where he will hold talks with President Bill Clinton and senior administration officials.

The King is accompanied by Her Majesty Queen Noor, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Ali and Prince Hashem, Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh as acting prime minister, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

The King's meeting with President Clinton is scheduled for March 27. After his White House meeting, the King will undergo a routine medical check-up at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, and proceed for a visit to Canada beginning April 1.

In Los Angeles, the King will receive the Simon Wiesenthal Centre's annual award and deliver an address at the centre on Friday.

It is the first time the award is going to an Arab head of state and comes after Jordan and Israel signed a peace treaty in October.

The King's talks with President Clinton are expected to

rotating presidency of the European Union.

His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah was sworn in as Regent before the King left.

A Royal Decree appointed Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh as acting prime minister, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

Their Majesties were seen off upon departure by Prince Abdullah, members of the Royal family, Parliament speakers and members, Cabinet ministers and senior civil and military officials.

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The King's talks with President Clinton are expected to

focus on Jordanian-American relations, the developments in the peace process and U.S. aid to Jordan.

In Amman on Tuesday, U.S. Vice-President Al Gore said Washington would fulfil its pledge to forgive Jordan's debts.

"We are committed to full debt forgiveness in 1995, and we will meet our commitment," Mr. Gore said in a speech at the Royal Cultural Centre. He reiterated the same at a press conference after talks with the King.

"Jordan has taken great risks for peace and the U.S. will demonstrate by its action that we are by the Jordanians' side," Mr. Gore said.

At the joint news conference, King Hussein said he was "fully satisfied" with Mr. Gore's pledge.

The King said Jordan expects more from Washington than the \$43 million in military and economic aid proposed by the administration.

"First of all because it was a commitment," the King said, "and secondly because of the leadership role of the U.S. in terms of addressing similar problems with many other friends throughout the

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Syria, Israel take break in talks

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Mid-east peace negotiations will hunker down here this weekend after three days of talks and will press on with more discussions next week, a diplomatic source said Wednesday.

Israeli Ambassador to Washington Itamar Rabinovich and his Syrian counterpart Walid Muallem met Monday and Tuesday to discuss security arrangements surrounding a withdrawal of Israeli troops from the Golan Heights.

There have been no breakthroughs in the talks, temporarily interrupted Tuesday evening when Mr. Rabinovich returned to Israel for a long-planned visit by Vice President Al Gore.

Neither ambassador spoke about the talks Wednesday and the State Department was also tight-lipped, saying "we don't want to focus on the talks, for a better chance of success."

Negotiations have yielded little progress in three years on the issue of an Israeli pull out from the Golan.

Syria is demanding a total withdrawal while Israel proposes a limited pull out and wants adequate security guarantees.

The resumption of negotiations in Washington after a three-month lull was made possible by Secretary of State Warren Christopher's last Mideast trip. He managed to get the main players to agree to discuss security arrangements.

Israel said the Israeli and Syrian ambassadors would meet again in Washington on Friday.

A foreign ministry spokesman neither confirmed nor denied the two would meet.

A Syrian paper said meanwhile Damascus was waiting for fresh Israeli ideas.

It said no real progress would be made if Israel did not approve full withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Syria is waiting for new Israeli ideas at the ambassadorial talks to push the peace process forward on the basis of U.N. Security Council resolutions 242, 338 and 425 and the land for peace principle," the government daily Al Thawra said.

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Palestinian police arrest more suspects after foiled bombing

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Palestinian police arrested at least 15 suspects in Gaza following a foiled truck bombing, while Israel on Wednesday barred entry to dozens of Palestinians.

Israeli police detained a third suspect, an Israeli Arab.

The man came from the bedouin settlement of Tel Sheva, where one of the two Palestinians already arrested for Monday's attempted bombing in southern Israel sought to hide from police in mosque.

Palestinian Prosecutor-General Khaled Al Kidra said "at least 15" Palestinians were arrested in Gaza, but members of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, put the figure at around 20.

The Hamas sources said most of those hauled in were relatives or neighbours of the two Palestinians from Gaza arrested by Israeli police.

An Israeli ban on all Palestinian vehicles in Gaza from entering the country entered its second day on

Wednesday. It was imposed after the red Volvo truck packed with explosives was stopped by chance in Beersheba, the largest town in southern Israel with 150,000 residents.

Police said the men had planned to blow themselves up in the truck in central Beersheba. It was loaded with at least 100 kilograms of explosives in Gaza City and driven through the Erez Crossing into Israel.

One of the two Palestinians arrested Monday near Beersheba, Issam Farhat Rabbia, was a known Hamas militant, Israeli police said.

Israel on Wednesday prevented dozens of Palestinians entering the country via Erez. Palestinians turned back at the crossing said the Israeli security forces gave no explanation.

An Israeli colonel at Erez said only construction and agriculture workers were allowed to go through.

Israeli radio said the truck-bomb was prepared by Hamas militant Yahya

Ayash, who has been blamed for several deadly bombings over the last year.

Israel cites security concerns as the main reason for delaying a promised expansion of Palestinian self-rule beyond Gaza and Jericho to other parts of the West Bank.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has demanded that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat do more to foil attacks by militants on Israelis. Israel has said it would not agree to expanding Palestinian self-rule to the West Bank until Mr. Arafat complied.

The two sides have set July 1 as a target date for negotiating an agreement on troop withdrawal and Palestinian elections.

In response to the aborted truck bombing, Mr. Rabin called off planned talks with the PLO on the release of Palestinian security prisoners held in Israeli jails.

Mr. Arafat reacted angrily

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U.S. says Iran has deployed chemical weapons on coast

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry on Wednesday accused Iran for the first time of deploying chemical weapons on its coast and of moving 8,000 troops to Gulf islands, in a threat to the world's oil lanes.

"We have seen most recently a very substantial buildup of military forces on the islands in the Straits of Hormuz," at the entrance to the oil-rich Gulf, Mr. Perry told journalists during a stopover in Bahrain.

"This involves almost 8,000 military personnel moved to those islands," he said during a Gulf tour aimed at consolidating the U.S. alliance with Arab oil states against both Iran and Iraq.

He did not name the islands.

"Coastal, it involves anti-ship missiles, air-defence missiles, chemical weapons," Mr. Perry said.

"It is a deployment that is far beyond any reasonable defensive requirements that Iran has, and it can only be regarded, I believe, as a

potential threat to shipping in the area," he said.

"To the extent that all of the countries in the Gulf area use the Straits of Hormuz, and they represent a vital economic life line to them, this represents a threat to them," he said.

One fifth of the world's oil passes through the Straits of Hormuz.

After U.S. reports earlier this month of Iranian missile deployment on islands in the southern Gulf, Tehran said it had every right to deploy troops and equipment in defence of its own territory.

Mr. Perry said the purpose of his Gulf tour was not to sell weapons, but to promote "joint cooperation, including access to bases, joint training, joint exercises."

U.S. military officials said that around 84 military exercises were scheduled in the region.

Mr. Perry travelled later to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), where he held talks with its president, Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, on boosting bi-

lateral ties.

The UAE is in dispute with Iran over three islands in the southern Gulf.

Abu Dhabi is hosting an international arms fair at which the United States, Britain, France and other Western countries are fighting it out for major contracts.

Mr. Perry visited the show.

Mr. Perry's tour has also taken him to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. He was due to travel on to Qatar, which he announced on Monday had granted the United States permission to base military equipment on its territory.

He met with Bahrain's emir, Sheikh Isa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, and the crown prince and commander in chief of the Bahrain defence forces, Sheikh Hamad Ben Isa Al Khalifa.

Mr. Perry also visited the aircraft carrier USS Constellation, which has spent almost 12 weeks in the Gulf, and was briefed on the new Iranian capabilities in meetings with the top navy com-

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Turkish troops detain villagers in Iraq as U.N. voices concern

ZAKHO, Iraq (Agencies) —

Turkish troops have detained villagers suspected of being Kurdish guerrillas in a huge operation against rebels in northern Iraq that is drawing rising international concern.

Witnesses said on Wednesday Turkish troops, on the third day of a mission involving 35,000 soldiers, had searched houses in Derkar township, northeast of the border of Zakho, and detained some residents.

It was unclear how many people had been seized or their immediate fate. An earlier report by an Iraqi opposition group said hundreds of villagers were involved.

Colonel Dogu Silahoglu, spokesman for the Turkish general staff, denied any moves against civilians, dismissing reports as "terrorist propaganda."

The United Nations said it was worried about the fate of Kurdish refugees in northern Iraq as the massive Turkish attack continues.

Baghdad's government and official media have made no public comment on the Turkish incursion.

"We are very much concerned because the troops are definitely in areas where we have resettled the refugees," Viktor Wahlroos, deputy U.N. coordinator in Iraq, told Reuters.

He said the attack, the largest ever mounted by Turkey on Kurdish guerrilla bases in northern Iraq, was hampering the distribution of relief aid to needy Iraqi Kurds there.

"Refugees and villagers are not to be touched, are not to be harassed," Mr. Wahl-

roos said.

He said the U.N. feared for the safety of about 4,500 refugees who were now

caught up in the fighting.

About 13,000 Kurds of Turkish origin have fled fighting between Turkish troops and the rebel Kurdish Labour Party (PKK). The U.N. resettled some 8,600 of them in camps 160 kilometres away from Turkish border to ensure they were not seen as a launching pad for the guerrillas.

The U.N. official said the Turkish raid also delayed arrival of relief convoys to Iraqi Kurds. Mr. Wahlroos said more than 150 U.N. relief trucks were held up on the Turkish side of the border amid a 40-kilometre-long queue of vehicles.

In Zakho, a Turkish officer said his forces were ready to stay in northern Iraq for up to a year in order to defeat the PKK rebels holed up in the region's hills and mountains.

"It can be a month, a year. We'll stay here until we have defeated them," the officer told foreign journalists near this border town on condition his name not be used.

In Ankara, Foreign Ministry spokesman Ferhat Ataman said Wednesday that Turkish troops would be pulled out when their mission is complete and goals reached, but gave no date.

"With today's fighting 207 PKK fighters have died. We only lost seven soldiers," the Turkish major said.

North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) governments, alarmed at the prospect of a new crisis in the Western alliance, struggled to cover up cracks over Turkey's military incursion into Iraq.

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Bridge is symbol that Iraq survives

By Eileen Alt Powell
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraqis are celebrating the latest symbol of their defiance, the reconstruction of a 336-metre bridge destroyed by allied bombers during the Gulf war.

The 14th of July Bridge across the muddy Tigris River was rebuilt despite nearly five years of U.N. sanctions that bar Iraq from exporting its oil or importing needed goods.

The intricate steel suspension bridge, whose towers rise 25 metres above the roadbed, spans a muddy stretch of the Tigris River through Baghdad.

"The Americans, the dirty Americans, thought we couldn't do it because of the sanctions," Iraq's industry minister, Hassan Kamal Al Majid, said at a dedication ceremony Sunday.

But since the war Iraq has rebuilt bridges, refineries, government buildings and factories "even better than before," the minister said.

Schoolgirls waved flags and pom-poms and chanted President Saddam Hussein's name. Baghdadis flocked to the site, creating the new bridge's first traffic jam.

State television carried a 20-minute programme showing President Saddam saying prayers on the bridge.

While the sanctions cause food and medical shortages, the government manages to keep things going. Western diplomats in Baghdad say the country is surviving on its oil.

Although Iraq is permitted to export up to 70,000 barrels of oil a day to Jordan to buy necessities, the diplomats say much more is leaving the country — but at sharply discounted prices.

They estimate Iraqi traders may be moving more than 200,000 barrels daily — twice what U.S. officials previously estimated — through clandestine channels.

Increasingly Iraqi oil also is being trucked to Iran, a nation with which Iraq fought a war from 1980 to 1988, said the diplomats, who insisted on anonymity. Estimated oil earnings of between \$800 million and \$1 billion a year have

helped bolster Iraq's economy but come nowhere near the \$12 billion it was earning annually before the Gulf war.

Iraqi officials say they have no information about such oil shipments. And they say it is a struggle to meet the needs of Iraq's 18 million people.

"Outside the country, we're doing our best to convince the international community to put pressure on America to convince them to lift the sanctions," said Parliament Speaker Saadi Mehdi Saleh.

"Inside the country, we do our best to provide people with the things they need and to increase production," he said.

He bristled at U.S. allegations that the regime is squandering its money to rebuild military industry and construct palaces rather than helping suffering citizens.

"We first rebuilt and fixed the damage to our factories and buildings. And then we fixed the palaces of the government," Mr. Saleh said.

"They don't belong to Saddam Hussein. They are for the government."

Iraqi government spending continues for health and education programmes, though at a fraction of the pre-war level, Mr. Saleh said. But while Iraq has the skilled labour to carry out most projects, it lacks crucial spare parts.

Mr. Saleh said, for example, that "problems with electricity still hamper us, especially in industry and agriculture."

The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Committee of the Red Cross and other aid agencies have provided thousands of dollars to keep Iraq's water treatment plants and sewerage system operating.

But Thomas Ekvall, director of the UNICEF office here, says there are troubles with both the quality and quantity of water.

"The problem is far beyond what we can help with," he said.

Although Iraq has repaired many of its oil wells and refineries, Oil Minister Safa Jawad Al Haboubi says it will take 14 months after sanctions are lifted to boost production back to the pre-war level of 3.5 million barrels a day.

Supreme court start hearings on lawsuit against treaty

AMMAN (AP) — The Supreme Court on Wednesday began hearing an unprecedented lawsuit filed by two women against the government and Parliament charging that the peace treaty with Israel is unconstitutional and violates their rights.

Muheeba Haddadin and her mother Fadha, who are demanding the annulment of the treaty, also alleged that the Oct. 26 treaty violates Arab and Palestinian rights and will lead to ethnic and

religious wars in the region. The two Christian women contend that the treaty, which ended a 46-year state of war between Jordan and Israel, undermines "Christian belief in the Holy Bible."

A government lawyer, Foad Abu Zeina, declared during the one-hour court session that the lawsuit has no legal base.

He pointed out that the treaty was ratified by Parliament and was thus constitutional.

Mr. Abu Zeina also challenged the Supreme Court's jurisdiction to hear the case.

The lawsuit argues that the "treaty is unconstitutional because it concedes Arab land in Palestine, which is part of the Arab Nation ... and the people who signed the document are not authorised to concede Arab land."

Ms. Haddadin, a lawyer, told the Associated Press in a telephone interview after the hearing that the treaty recog-

nises the State of Israel and therefore it meant "conceding Arab land."

"This is a clear violation of Arab and Palestinian rights and overstepping of authority," she said.

The lawsuit contends that the peace accord distorts historical facts. Ms. Haddadin and her mother say that "Jews never had a nation in Palestine ever in history, and recognising such a right for them now contradicts and distorts history."

Afghan government troops dig in against Taliban

KABUL (Agencies) — Afghan government troops faced the Taliban militia in a tense stand-off south of Kabul on Wednesday and a Taliban commander said Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani had forfeited all trust.

The commander, Mullah Mohammad Rabbani (no relation), said government troops must return to their previous lines near the capital before any peace talks could take place.

"Rabbani has broken every promise and commitment he has made to us in the past," the Taliban commander said. "If they give us back all the positions we occupied around Kabul, then we will know they are ready for negotiations."

A government offensive against the Taliban-held hills to the south and southwest of Kabul forced the Taliban to retreat about 15 kilometres further south at the weekend.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said the govern-

ment troops had inflicted heavy losses on the Taliban. Mullah Rabbani said his units had retreated intact because they wanted to prevent any harm to civilians living near their former headquarters at Charasyab, which they captured from opposition leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar in February.

Mullah Rabbani said the Taliban accepted U.N. proposals for an interim administration to take over from the president, whose self-extended term expired on Dec. 28.

President Rabbani has stayed on, arguing there was no legitimate mechanism to which he could transfer power.

The United Nations had hoped to supervise a hand-over on Tuesday, the Afghan New Year's Day, but U.N. special envoy Mahmoud Mestiri said the interim authority was not ready.

The United Nations, now

hoping for a transfer of power next month, has appealed for a ceasefire to allow negotiations.

An Afghan government commander, gazing through Russian-made binoculars at Taliban positions a few kilometres away at Mohammed Agha, said he had no immediate orders to launch a new offensive.

"We are in a defensive position," General Moin said. "We don't have any plans to attack them, but if they fire a single shot first, by the grace of God, we will drive them out of Logar Province."

Judging by the effort put into preparing the frontline against Taliban attack it would appear that the Rabbani forces do not want to lose it.

No artillery fire was exchanged on the southern frontline and neither was there any civilian traffic passing from Mohammed Agha to Kabul.

People who had walked through the mountains to pro-Rabbani frontlines said the Taliban were not letting buses pass. If true, this would be a reversal of their original policy which was to free all roads of checkpoints and blockades.

To the west of Kabul on the frontlines near the provincial capital Maidanshar, a Defence Ministry official said there had been no change in the situation — a military stalemate.

He said that in the western Afghan province of Farah, the Taliban had never captured the strategic military airbase of Shindand as claimed in some earlier press reports.

The Defence Ministry spokesman said the Taliban, who initially made some territorial gains, had now been pushed out of Farah.

Fighting was going on in or around the town of Dilaram in adjacent Nimroz province, the official said.

Canadian committee to probe Somalia incidents

OTTAWA (AP) — A civilian panel was established Tuesday to investigate the actions of Canadian soldiers during U.N. peacekeeping operations in Somalia two years ago.

Defence Minister David Collette convened the panel under the national defence act.

The unprecedented inquiry will be conducted in public. Similar investigations in the past, including a military-dominated panel that looked at some aspects of the Somalia mission 18 months ago, were held in private.

The new panel will likely take up to two months in preparation before it starts hearings.

Mr. Collette has said the civilian inquiry will look at all aspects of the Canadian airborne regiment's operations in Somalia.

The now-disbanded regiment went to Somalia in December 1992 and spent six months there as part of a United Nations force charged with restoring order and escorting aid shipments.

During its stay, the regiment was involved in several incidents in which Somalis were killed, including one in March 1993 in which 16-year-old Shidane Arone was beaten and tortured to death in a bunker at the Canadian camp.

There have been complaints that the investigation was botched and soldiers were told to destroy evidence. Some have suggested

that officials tried to shield then-Defence Minister Kim Campbell from Somalia fallout to protect her run for the Conservative leadership and the prime minister's job.

During court martial over the last year, witnesses have said beatings of Somali civilians were not uncommon in the Canadian compound.

Four soldiers, including two officers, were convicted of various charges in Arone's death.

Private Kyle Brown received the stiffest sentence — five years for manslaughter and torture.

Major Tony Seward, who told his men they could "abuse" prisoners, was convicted of negligent performance of duty and given a severe reprimand. His direct subordinate, platoon commander Captain Mike Sox, was demoted to lieutenant and given a severe reprimand after he was convicted of negligent performance of duty.

The event in Somalia, coupled with the broadcast of a pair of amateur videotapes led Mr. Collette to disband the parachute regiment earlier this month. One of the videos showed airborne soldiers in Somalia making racist, boastful remarks. The other showed paratroopers back home engaged in a hazing ritual that included eating vomit and feces.

Mr. Collette decided the regiment and its reputation were past salvaging.

Car thieves find heaven on earth in Gaza Strip

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian police have come up with a novel way to combat car theft: legalise it.

Faced with thousands of stolen and uninsured cars in the Gaza Strip, the police decided on a drastic solution. Adverts were placed in Arabic language newspapers on March 1 informing people they had until April 5 to license vehicles "not previously allowed to be registered."

Gaza police chief General Ghazi Jabali said more than 500 cars — stolen in Israel — had already been registered.

"We have not spoken to Israel about this issue, but after April 5 we will not allow any more stolen cars into Gaza."

"After the announced date any cars not registered will be collected by the police," he said.

Israeli police spokesman Eric Bar Chen voiced disbelief at the scheme but offered an official, "no comment for the moment."

More than 26,000 cars were stolen in Israel last year — or 19.2 per thousand vehicles — and 58 per cent of them were not recovered.

The good citizens of Gaza queue up daily at an office run by Colonel Alia's in police headquarters.

He notes down the engine and chassis number, colour and model.

The owner signs an undertaking not to sell the vehicle or drive it into Israeli-controlled areas.

He pays \$100 for registration, renewable every three months, and \$15 for temporary plates.

Emad Abu Ramadan, who runs a shop in Gaza City, could not believe his luck.

"When I saw the ad in the newspaper, I was very pleased and went immediately to register my car," he said.

"I bought a stolen Subaru

before the Israelis left Gaza. The same model would have cost two or three times the price normally."

"But that was during the Israeli occupation when we thought anything we could do against them was right."

"Now the Palestinian police are here and our government is enforcing the law we have to respect it," he explained.

Mr. Abu Ramadan was the 54th person to register and now has the special plate for stolen cars — pink lettering on a white background. He is number 22,054 — police began the system at 22,000.

Now he is legal and has taken out insurance for the first time.

Previously only stolen cars driven by the police were insured on the strip.

The phenomenon has produced more than one bizarre incident.

A member of the Palestinian preventive security services, who asked to be identified only as Ibrahim, bought a hot car for \$3,000 in January.

It was stolen from him within a few weeks, but he traced it and found at the wheel of another member of the security service who had also bought it cheaply.

They finally went to their boss who formed a committee of senior officers who ruled in favour of the second man.

Unlike his more wily colleague, Ibrahim had noted down neither the plate nor engine numbers. "I just knew what it looked like," he admitted.

Locals say most new cars are suspect in Gaza, and the bigger they are the more likely they were stolen.

Not surprisingly there are few new cars, dealers on the strip, but plenty of people offering vehicles recently "imported" from Israel.

New Age mystics flock to Egypt's ancient pyramids

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt's ancient pyramids have become a centre of pilgrimage for thousands of New Age mystics who flock from around the world to seek the "energy" of the spirits of the pharaohs.

The granite walls of the pyramids and temples echo to the sound of chanting as this new breed of tourists — mostly American and women — brave the threat of Islamic militant violence in the search for inspiration.

Eyes closed, hand-in-hand, around 20 Americans gathered in a circle in the heart of the 4,500-year-old great pyramid in the funeral chamber of Cheops.

"Breathe, concentrate your energy," barked a woman dressed in a huge

blue tee-shirt. "Ask our ancestors to help us."

One woman cried as she prayed. Another adopted the lotus position and started up her video camera.

When the group emerged from the long corridor of the pyramid their faces were flushed with pleasure. "It was a marvellous experience, spiritual as well as cultural," said Jane Cotton, a 63-year-old woman from Chicago.

Zahi Hawas, head of antiquities for the three pyramids of Cheops, Shephren and Mycerinos southwest of Cairo, said: "This sort of tourism is not put off by terrorism."

Mohammad Nazmy heads a tourism agency called Sphinx which specialises

in spiritual trips. "Every year we deal with 1,500 to 2,000 people. Fifteen years ago there were only 20 to 30."

He is already taking reservations for turn-of-the-century celebrations on Dec. 31, 1999.

The Great Pyramid, the only one of the seven wonders of the world still surviving, attracts its band of followers at sunrise.

Among them are the Rosicrucians, a Californian sect whose temple in San Jose is shaped like an Egyptian temple.

"The pyramids have a particular shape and were built according to the power of the spirit, they give certain vibrations," says the sect's representative in Egypt, Milad Zakharly.

Other groups such as "11/

11" and "Power Places" organise gatherings of three to four hundred people at suitable times. Some dress entirely in white or in a tarboosh, a cap like a fez.

Andrew, a young Briton who came to Egypt with several friends, brought with him a "Star Gate", a tubular copper structure which is supposed to create "a strong energy field."

Mystics must ask permission from the Egyptian antiquities office to visit the pyramids outside normal hours. They pay \$35 for a group of 15, and \$15 for each extra person.

"There are at least four to five groups a month, each one with around 20 people. Most are Americans and women," said Mohammad Hemeida, a local inspector of anti-

quities. Egyptians themselves are rarely interested, but on Friday one of them waited in vain for Solomon, son of the prophet David, for several hours on top of the 137-metre high Cheops pyramid.

The Imhotep association, named after the architect of the Djoser and Saqqara pyramids, sees itself as more scientific than the New Age sects and has been meeting regularly in Cairo for the last nine years.

"The pyramids represent an energy point and symbolise the way geometric forms can be used to create a vibrational power," said architect Ibrahim Karim, one of the group's leaders.

Antiquities chief Hawas tried to explain the attrac-

tion. "The pyramids have something magical about them because nobody knows how they were built. Some think they are the work of extra-terrestrials."

He distinguishes between simple pyramid worshippers who he respects because "they have a dream," and the more dangerous fanatics such as an American who wanted to dig underneath the Great Pyramid to find documents he said would change the world.

Mr. Hawas himself is sceptical of repeated attempts to uncover the secrets of the pyramids.

"Some people sometimes say they hear Cheops talking to them at night. But it is only the rats making a noise," he said.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:00	Les Raisons Laveurs
17:30	Maria Des Eaux Vives
18:00	News in French
18:30	Road To Avonlea
19:45	Planete En Equilibre
20:30	The Blue Revolution
21:10	E. N. G.
22:00	News in English
22:30	Feature film: "Rainbow"
23:59	The Exile
PRAYER TIMES	
04:15	Fajr
05:33	(Sunrise) Doha
11:40	Dhuhr
15:11	'Asr
17:52	Maghreb
19:10	'Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sridhah, Tel. 810740	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 652526	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624323	
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
The Evangelical Light Church in Amman Tel. 811295	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Sunny and warm weather conditions will prevail with temperatures slightly above average and winds northwesterly moderate, in Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min/Max temp.	
Amman	9/21
Aqaba	18/29
Deserts	5/22
Jordan Valley	15/28
Yesterday's high temperatures:	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
Amman 22 Aqaba 29. Humidity readings: Amman 20 per cent, Aqaba 26 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Isam Al Asmar	890304
Dr. Riza Abu Zinah	894295
Dr. Salah Al Usud	649028
Dr. Nasser Ibrahim	662935
First pharmacy	78336
Fordons pharmacy	651912
Al Asma pharmacy	637055
Nairokh pharmacy	636792
Yacoub pharmacy	649495
Shimoon pharmacy	67660
Nairokh pharmacy	623672
Najib pharmacy	847632
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Prime minister sets up committee to tighten administrative control

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Wednesday decided to set up a committee to follow up the implementation of recommendations and decisions by the Lower House of Parliament Finance Committee calling for tighter control and stricter financial measures by government departments.

The prime minister also issued a communique to government departments and ministries asking them to study the Lower House of Parliament's decision on Feb. 15 approving its finance committee's report and recommendations included in the report regarding the 1992-93 Audit Bureau's reports and take the suitable procedure to address financial and administrative violations.

The committee's report stressed there was a general weakness in the administration and performance of government departments and incompetence on the part of the employees.

The report referred to the ministry of finance's practice of extending loans to firms operating at a loss, noting that until the end of last year, such loans amounted to JD 120 million.

The report also pointed out that contractors carrying out government projects were slow in finishing them, and it recommended that thorough feasibility studies be made before the start of any project.



Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker

It also pointed to embezzlements and fraud with regard to public funds, as included in the Audit Bureau's reports, and recommended that the government take steps to safeguard such funds. The report referred to violations of government regulations concerning the appointment of government employees and recommended that the Inspection and Control Bureau be given wider authorities to control the appointments procedure and recommended that the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) should come under the jurisdiction of the Audit Bureau since it is a public organisation.

The committee set up by the prime minister Wednesday will be headed by Minister of Administrative Development

Mohieddin Toq and will include as members the president of the inspection and Control Bureau, a representative of the Legislature and Opinion Bureau as well as the secretaries general of the ministries of Industry and Trade, Justice and Planning.

The committee will follow up the implementation of the Lower House's Finance Committee recommendations in cooperation with all the concerned ministries and government departments.

The prime minister's decision was taken in accordance with the government's commitments expressed before the House during the discussion of the Audit Bureau's 1992-93 reports.

Japan grants Jordan \$11m to help address deficit in balance of payments

Tokyo to extend additional \$14m to water, health sectors

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Japan on Wednesday signed an agreement with Jordan under which Tokyo would provide \$11 million in grant to the Kingdom to address the deficit in its balance of payments, a Japanese embassy statement said.

The statement said the Tokyo government would also offer another \$14 million in aid to Jordan's water and health sectors within a month.

The agreement, signed by Japanese Ambassador Yuji Ikeda and acting Planning Minister Samir Kavar on Wednesday, involved one billion yen (\$11 million) in what the statement described as unconditional non-project grant that could be used by Jordan to finance imports from any source.

The grant "aims at assisting the balance of payment of Jordan, and encouraging the efforts on the Jordanian side with regard to the structural adjustment programme worked out with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank."

body for help with its \$8.3 billion foreign debt.

The Kingdom strictly adhered to the programme and managed to bring down its debts to around \$5 billion at the end of 1994 after cancellation of some major contracts, debt buybacks and partial cancellation of debts from Western creditors.

About \$1.8 billion of the debts have been rescheduled to periods exceeding more than 30 years.

Jordan is seeking more debt relief from creditors, most of them grouped under the Paris Club of governments, after securing \$200 million in relief from the U.S., \$75 million from Britain, \$50 million from Germany, \$25 million from Switzerland and \$5 million from France.

The U.S. is in the process of extending another \$500 million debt write-off to Jordan.

France is also offering a debt-equity swap of \$100 million, which in effect would mean a cancellation of about \$30 million in the Kingdom's dues to Paris.

According to Ministry of Finance statistics, Jordan holds JD 1.25 billion (\$1.81 billion) of the Kingdom's debts. About JD165 million (about \$235 million) of this



Acting Minister of Planning Samir Kavar and Japanese Ambassador to Jordan Yuji Ikeda Wednesday sign a grant agreement for \$11 million to help Jordan address its deficit in its balance of payments (Petra photo)

amount have been rescheduled.

Japanese diplomats say Tokyo, a strong supporter of the Middle East peace process, is willing to make more funds available to the Kingdom as long as Amman continues to implement the IMF programme, which aims at

zero budget deficit by the year 1998.

In 1993, the Japanese government extended loans of \$131 million to Jordan's energy sector.

Wednesday's grant raised to \$26 million the amount of

outright Japanese aid to Jordan since 1993.

"The Japanese government is also planning to extend additional \$14 million grants within a month" to help Jordan's water and health sectors, the embassy statement said.

Princess Basma stresses women's force of change

NEW YORK (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma said there is a strong national and international force that believes in the importance of the role of women in leading humanity to a better future. This force, the Princess said, is capable of inducing change and directing societies towards reinforcing and activating this role.

Addressing the preparatory meeting for the World Conference on Women that will be held in Beijing, China in September, Princess Basma said the Beijing conference is of paramount importance and necessitates good preparations to produce fruitful results.

Princess Basma briefed the participants on Jordan's achievements in the field of women and the noticeable progress in women's status in the Kingdom, especially the appointment of a large number of women as members of municipal councils.

The Jordanian delegation to the conference will present a draft proposal that includes recommendations and suggestions to amend 27 articles of the international draft plan of action of the U.N. treaty



to eliminate all sorts of discrimination against women, combat illiteracy, allow women access to decision-making post.

The draft plan of action covers 11 subjects that deal with poverty and its influence on women, unequal access to education between genders and the impact of armed conflicts on women as well as the role of the media in promoting women's contributions to the society.

'Jordanian, Israeli tour operators settle tourist numbers problem'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian and Israeli tour operators, hotels and Ministry of Tourism officials on Wednesday settled a problem that arose after a large number of Israeli tourists were turned back from the northern crossing into the Kingdom last week, Tourism Minister Abdul Ilah Khatib said.

Solving the problem also meant a better Israeli understanding of the procedures related to Israeli tourists visiting Jordan, and that the Israeli Travel Agents Association and tour operators now understand that there is no delay on the Jordanian side to issue entry permits to Israeli tourists, the minister told the Jordan Times.

"The head of the Israeli Travel Agents Association visited Amman today (Wednesday) and held talks with Jordanian tour operators, hotel executives and Ministry of Tourism officials," Mr. Khatib said. "They reviewed the procedures related to the issuance of entry permits to Israeli and related issues."

"Now they understand that there is no delay from the Jordanian side in issuing visas for Israeli tourists," said the minister. "What is needed is a little bit more of organisation, which means that all Israeli tourists coming to Jordan should not choose to come on one single day in the week."

The problem arose when several hundred Israeli tourists thronged the northern crossing into Jordan last Thursday at the beginning of a Jewish holiday. Their number far exceeded the daily ceiling of 600 set by the Jordanian authorities and, as a result, many of them were turned away.

Under an arrangement between Jordan and Israel, 600 Israelis are allowed in across the northern bridge and 300 across the Wadi Araba crossing every day. The numbers have been set in accordance with the level of facilities available in Jordan to cater to the needs of the tourists.

As a concession to Israeli tour operators and tourists following last week's incident, Jordan agreed to allow in a higher number on today (Thursday) as a

one-time measure, the minister said.

"There is no need for us to increase the number of Israeli tourists that we allow in every day," Mr. Khatib said, adding that less than 20,000 Israeli tourists came to Jordan since the beginning of the year.

"The figures speak for themselves," he said, noting that the average daily visitors numbered around 350. "There is still large room for tourists to come," the minister said, referring to the daily ceiling of 900.

The minister said on Sunday that the best way to avoid cloggings at the crossing was for Israelis to "spread their visits throughout the week rather than everybody converging on the crossings on Thursday."

Wednesday's meeting appeared to put to rest a "threat" issued by four Israeli tour operators and the Israeli Travel Agents Association after an "emergency" meeting on Monday that they would boycott Jordan as a tourism destination if their demand for "speedier" entry procedures was not met.

JEDCO studies prospect of trade centre set-up in Dubai

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Jordan Export Development and Commercial Centres Corporation (JEDCO) Mohammad Halaika Wednesday said the corporation is currently studying the prospect of opening a Jordanian trade centre in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to promote commercial ties and increase the volume of trade exchange between Jordan

and Arab Gulf countries. Dr. Halaika, who visited the fifth International Spring Trade Fair currently held in Dubai, said JEDCO will also work on increasing Jordanian exports to neighbouring Asian countries after the emergence of Dubai as an important re-export centre.

He said Jordanian exports to the UAE in 1994 totalled \$45 million, accounting for 37 per cent of Jordan's total

exports to the Arab Gulf. He said Jordan's pavilion at the International Spring Trade Fair in Dubai is witnessing an increasing turnout by businessmen and traders in view of the good reputation of the Jordanian industries in terms of standards and specifications.

Dr. Halaika, who returned from Dubai recently, said the Jordanian pavilion is the second largest at the fair.

Jordan marks International Water Day

AMMAN (Petra) — In observance of International Water Day, the Ministry of Water and Irrigation Wednesday organised, in cooperation with the Jordan Environment Society and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), a seminar entitled "conserving water is the duty of all of us."

Water and Irrigation Minister Saleh Irsheidat said in an address at the seminar, delivered on his behalf by Secretary General of the Ministry Mohammad Bani Hani, that the main problem facing Jordan at present was the widening gap between the

available water resources and the increasing demand for water.

Dr. Irsheidat said this increase in demand was resulting from the rise in population and in the standards of living, noting that further rises were expected in view of the anticipated boom in the industrial and tourism sectors.

The ministry, he said, was about to face this demand by preparing plans, policies and projects which will strike a balance between the available sources and the expected rise in demand.

The minister noted that the consumption of water in Jordan, whether for domestic or agricultural purposes, was rationalised compared to international standards.

According to Dr. Irsheidat, the international water poverty line stands at 1,000 cubic metres (cm) per annum annually, while in Jordan the average consumption per annum stands at 255 cm.

He said the Kingdom's observance of International Water Day, which was declared by the United Nations' General Assembly, emphasises the Kingdom's seriousness in dealing with the problem of water through cooperation with international organisations.

WHAT'S GOING ON

ARABIC MUSIC FESTIVAL

- ★ An illustrated lecture entitled "The Music Map of Jordan by Yusra Jawharieh Alarita at the Royal Cultural Centre, conference hall, on Thursday at 6:30 p.m.
- ★ Musical performance by "Irbid Arab Music Ensemble" with conductor Dr. Mohammad Gahwaameh (24 vocalists and 16 instrumentalists) at the Royal Cultural Centre, conference hall, on Thursday at 8:00 p.m.
- ★ Musical performance by the orchestra and band of the National Music Conservatory, with conductor Mohammad Sidiq, at the Royal Cultural Centre, conference hall, on Friday at 8:00 p.m.

FIELD TRIP

- ★ Field trip, organised by Friends of Archaeology (FoA) Society, to Deir Abi Said and Al Kurah. Departure will be on Friday in private cars from FoA Center at 8:00 p.m.

FILM

- ★ Film entitled "Stand and Deliver" at the American Center on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of art by Ahmad Al Bahili and Mohammad Ali at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art.
- ★ Exhibition of books dealing with Arab and Islamic subjects at Instituto Cervantes (the Spanish Cultural Centre).
- ★ Exhibition of abstract art by "Alia" 'Ammoura and oil paintings by Salman 'Abbas at Orfali Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of abstract art by Abeer Bawwab at the Royal Cultural Centre. Also displaying oil paintings by Munira Al Tunkiya.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by several artists entitled "Faces" at the Balqaa Art Gallery, Fuheis.
- ★ Exhibition of art by Rula Shukairy at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition by Syrian artist Marwan Qassab Bashi at Darat Al Fumm. Also showing a permanent exhibition of contemporary Arab artists.
- ★ Exhibition of women's abstract artists entitled "The World Through the Eyes of Women" at Baladna Art Gallery.

Private universities vs. government admission standards

By Ian Atalla

Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — It has now been nine years since authorities first gave local investors the green light to jump into Jordan's higher education system, and the newly-fledged private universities that have rapidly sprung up as a result now hold over 12,000 students. In that time, the government's policy of imposing its own minimum standards on student admissions at the private universities has grown into a testy issue between many educators, and a frequent subject of heated debate in local newspapers.

The government's policy "is one of the biggest things which hamper private universities' development here," maintains Ahmad Hourani, a founder and administrator at Amman Private University, who is one of its most vocal critics.

To his knowledge, he argued, "no other government in the world has set up such a system," which "denies the basic right of any student, no matter who he is, to choose for himself whether or not to pursue a higher education" without any outside intervention.

Equally vocal counter-opposition to Dr. Hourani and private university educators like him comes from public sector officials and educators who openly distrust the private universities, which are run by and

large on a commercial, for-profit basis.

One such public educator is Abdul Rahman Adas, a professor at the University of Jordan's Faculty of Education.

"If the people in charge of these universities understood the true philosophy of higher education, there would be no problem" with abolishing the government limits, he said. "But since their number one drive is for profit, the government must take a decisive role in monitoring them."

Even if the government did eventually drop its much-debated policy, which sets a Tawjihi score of 60 as the absolute cut-off line for student enrollment at private universities, as opposed to 65 for government universities, "it would be a disaster for the country," Dr. Adas said.

Nationwide standards of higher education would be drastically compromised, and Jordan's already overcrowded employment market, he maintained, would be further overrun "with large numbers of unqualified graduates."

"There is no other reason for private universities to push for dropping the limits, other than that more students mean more money."

Hard numbers alone do not shed any light on "what all the fuss is about" as one educator put it.

According to Ministry of Education figures, only a

very limited group, a hair over 5 per cent of the 31,760 students who passed the first round of Tawjihi exams this year in the scientific and humanities streams, did so with scores under 60.

Final Tawjihi results from the three previous years do not vary significantly from that mark.

In addition, any actual fire beneath the smoke of the debate would appear to be further diminished by the generally agreed-upon perception of educators at both the public and private universities, that student who scores under 60 on the Tawjihi has shown doubtful prospects for succeeding in a university setting anyway.

What appears to keep the issue heated, however, is not the actual statistics behind it, but the way it has neatly fallen between two differing camps — those like Dr. Adas who are skeptical that profit-oriented commercialism has a place in the Kingdom's universities, and those who believe the government is stunting the development of higher education in Jordan with rigid and over-centralised control of its activities.

Valid points exist on both sides, suggested Sulaiman Rihani, an assistant dean of graduate studies at the University of Jordan.

On the one hand, he said, "there is the aspect of freedom, of democracy — the right of students to

choose for themselves." But on the other hand, "in this early stage of limited experience with private universities, there has to be some form of scrutiny."

Whether the government's 60-mark was justified or not in its own right, argued one private university official, other policy loopholes made it an arbitrary measure nonetheless.

"People who can afford it can easily go study anywhere outside Jordan with a Tawjihi score of under 60," said Amin Mahmoud, president of Zeituna University. "And then, when they come back, we give them accreditation."

In addition to that, he said, foreign students are routinely admitted into the Kingdom's colleges with marks under the required minimum set for their Jordanian counterparts.

"Either you make the minimum for everyone, or you don't make it at all," Dr. Mahmoud, a former minister of culture insisted. "Why do you discriminate?"

The issue is further complicated by a third concerned party — Jordan's numerous community colleges, which often serve as a second resort for students who do not meet the minimum Tawjihi marks needed for four-year universities.

Many community college administrators, already

dealing with cash-strapped budgets by-and-large, openly worry that abolishing the 60-mark will noticeably crimp the size of their usually tiny student bodies.

Enrollments at their schools range roughly between 100 and 400 students.

When Al Dustour Arabic daily recently published the opinion of eight community college deans on the 60-mark issue, none of them gave support for abolishing it, six of them were openly against doing away with the mark, and four frankly stated that they feared its abolishment would hurt the interests of their schools.

One idea that has often been floated as a means of solving this conflict of interest between community colleges and private universities is "bridging."

Currently, graduates from the two-year community colleges face only limited chances of continuing onwards to a full four-year bachelor's degree inside Jordan. Under existing regulations, said Dr. Mahmoud, the public universities only admit the top three students from each specialty at any community college, and the private universities take none.

"Let the private universities fill the gap," suggested Dr. Mahmoud. "If the government universities take the top three, let us take

the rest of the top 10." This way, he said, community college students would have brighter hopes for their academic future, and community college heads would be more reassured about the whole issue of the 60-mark.

Dr. Adas was skeptical about the idea of bridging. "The community college students who come here (to the University of Jordan) have great difficulties," he said.

The limited scope and quality of education they have usually received at community colleges, he maintained, normally leaves them ill-prepared to continue for an additional two years at the university level.

Alterations are likely to be made to the 60-mark in the foreseeable future, according to one government official. But rather than being dropped as many private university heads are calling for, it will actually probably be stiffened, said Nazik Quteishat, secretary of the Council of Higher Education.

"We are doing a study on the issue which should be completed soon," she said. "And rather than lowering the required minimum, the views of most of the experts we have talked to has been just the opposite. They support raising it instead."

Chechen fighters 'execute' Russian pilot Russian troops seal off Argun

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russia said Wednesday that its forces had sealed off the town of Argun, a key stronghold of Chechen fighters 25 kilometres from Grozny.

"Russian troops have completed their operation to block illegal armed formations in the region of Argun," said a statement from the Russian government press service carried by RIA news agency.

Chechen fighters had been forced out of Argun shortly after midnight, the statement said.

The government press service said Tuesday that Russian troops had crossed the River Argun, captured an important hill and taken a road and railway leading to the city.

Russia sent tanks and troops into breakaway Chechnya on Dec. 11 to crush a three-year-old independence bid.

Troops have been positioning themselves to take Argun since they seized Grozny in February after weeks of heavy fighting which left the Chechen capital destroyed. Many parts of Argun have also been destroyed by Russian bombardment.

Russian warplanes, helicopters and rockets pounded the rebel Chechen "capital" of Shali Wednesday after ground forces pushed to encircle the town.

At about 3:30 p.m. (1230 GMT) Sukhoi-25 fighter bombers began attacking Shali and to the east, south-east and south in an arc of about eight kilometres (five miles) from the town.

The planes could be seen continuously circling high in a clear sky, then diving and firing a pair of rockets.

After overnight advances, the Russian ground forces

were in positions just west and north of Shali, the de facto capital for fighters loyal to separatist President Dzhokhar Dudayev.

During the day, tanks and heavy guns pushed south as far as the outskirts of Germentchuk, about two kilometres to the north of Shali, said Musa Ayugov, a 32-year-old soldier at a Shali post.

Three helicopters could be seen firing rockets at Chechen positions to the northeast of Shali.

The thrust on the ground has also cut the main road from Shali to Argun to the north.

In the morning, Shali was hit by a barrage of rockets that slammed into the town centre, hitting a busy street, a bridge and a row of houses opposite the military headquarters.

Residents said at least four people had been wounded, although accurate figures were unavailable. The attack caused panic, speeding the exodus of refugees from the almost deserted town.

A burning oil installation near Mäsker Yurt sent off a huge cloud of black smoke and more smoke poured from near Kurchaloi, to the east of Shali.

Russian tanks and infantry control escape routes from Shali to the west and north, while Russian planes and helicopters regularly bomb and strafe roads to the east and south.

The centre of Shali itself was rocketed dawn-morning, as refugees crammed their belongings into lorries and joined the exodus towards the mountains in the south.

The strikes created a hellish scene of fireballs and a storm of shrapnel, black smoke and dust. Debris flew

in high arcs over the road.

Panicked civilians fell over trying to run, a boy dropped his bicycle just before it was smashed by an escaping car.

The Russians took Mesker Yurt during nightlong artillery bombardments, said Hadjayev Abuyov, at the rebel headquarters in Shali.

The fall of Mesker Yurt to the Russians was also reported by refugees fleeing east.

The deputy commander of Chechen forces in the Shali area, Said-Hassan Tatayev, admitted his men were in a corner, but said the guerrilla force would fight street by street before letting Shali fall.

"Let them come here. I want to welcome them. We'll be hiding in every hole," he said.

But rather than storm Shali, the Russians will likely encircle and raze the town to the ground with artillery and air power, as they did to the capital Grozny earlier this year and are trying to do to Argun," Mr. Tatayev said.

"It's easier for me to fight here than in the open, but they probably won't come in. It will be just like Argun," he said.

Chechen independence fighters in Shali looked battle weary, after three months of fighting the giant Russian Armed Forces, whose total ranks outnumber the entire Chechen population.

But there was no talk of surrender here in Shali.

Chechen Grad rocket and artillery batteries on the outskirts of Shali fired constantly overnight and again early Wednesday morning.

A truckload of fighters armed with anti-tank grenades and rifles set off for the front chanting "Allahu Akbar" or "God is Great."

For the civilians, the new

Russian advance means having to search for the next place to run.

Incredibly, a few Chechen civilians were still selling cigarettes and sweets Wednesday in the Shali market place, which was blown apart on Jan. 3 in an air raid that killed more than 100 people.

"Of course it's scary staying here, but I have to stay and look after my home," said Layla Khazygeva, who said she was 53, but with her missing teeth and lined face, looked much older.

As the first plane of the morning passed overhead, a tiny white arrow in a brilliant blue spring sky, Khazygeva lost her composure and spat: "Grachev, you dog," referring to the Russian defence minister.

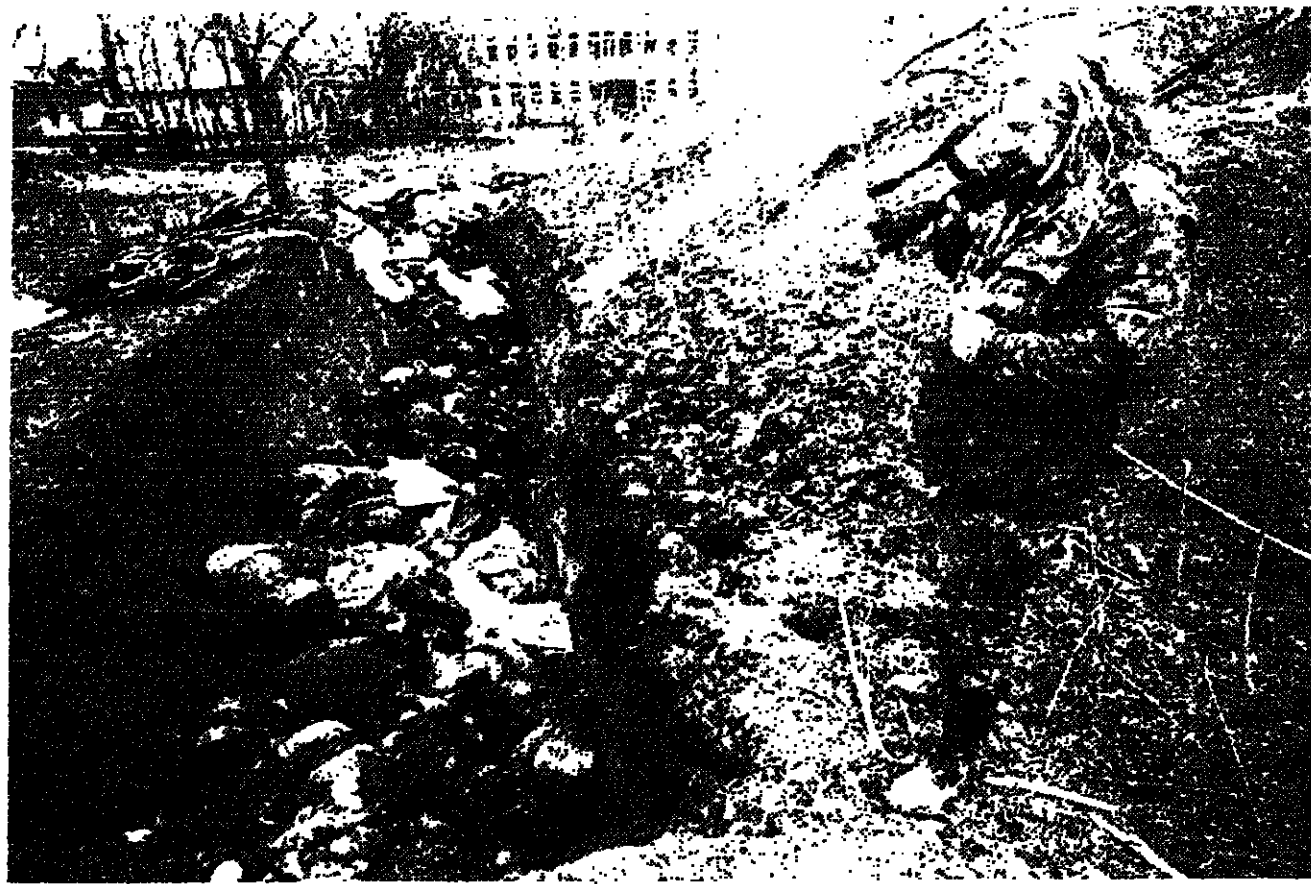
Every other car on the roads around Shali is loaded with refugees, some of whom fled from the Chechen capital Grozny before the New Year, then fled villages near Grozny, and are now fleeing again.

Like the Dudayev guerrillas, the refugees' only option will soon be to hide in the Caucasus Mountains.

Meanwhile, bombed from the air, pounded by Russian artillery and fanned by its inhabitants, Argun is now little more than a ghost town — but Chechen fighters are fighting to the death to hang onto it.

In what remains of the centre, a shell slammed into a gutted dwelling early in the day, killing two of the eight Chechen fighters who had spent the night in the cellar.

The rebels live beneath the ruins of the town, scurrying back to their underground shelters at sundown after a day on the front several hun-



Russian Orthodox priest Father Kipriyan holds his Kalashnikov gun in one hand and an Orthodox cross in the other while standing at a mass grave filled with civilian victims who died in battles for Grozny at the Russian cemetery in

Grozny. The situation in Grozny is quiet, as all military actions moved to Argun region, where Russian troops are gearing up for a decisive battle for the town of Argun (AFP photo)

dred metres away.

But their ranks have been devastated by Russian round-the-clock shelling and air strikes, against which the rebels have few heavy weapons.

"The hardest part is not going to the front," said Ramzan Issaev, a Chechen commander here, "but having to return to their families the bodies of our comrades killed by the bombs."

If Argun has held out to date it is not only because of the courage and determination of its defenders. The town has also been able to maintain critical links to rear bases, such as Gudermes and Shali, that have fed it reinforcements and supplies.

"It's the duty of every

Chechen to help our fighters," asserted 55-year-old Khamzat Irdiev at the wheel of a rattle-trap old truck that had just raced through Russian artillery fire on the road from Shali with a cargo of supplies.

On Tuesday as the town was rocked by explosions, the head of an elite Chechen unit, Shamiy Bassaiev, acknowledged he was "not sure we can continue to hold Argun."

Several hours later Russian troops, after capturing the road running east to Gudermes and claiming to have seized a village to the south, then encircling Argun.

Surrounded, Argun would lose its strategic significance as a crossroads between

Gudermes and Shali, two key Chechen cities still held by the rebels.

Vowed 28-year-old Issa, who was born in Argun: "I'll die here if I have to. As long as I live they'll never enter this town."

Chechen forces claimed to have executed a Russian Air Force pilot Tuesday for carrying out bombing raids in the breakaway republic, the Interfax News Agency said.

The chief of Chechnya's Information Service, Movladi Udugov, was quoted as saying Nikolai Bainov had been sentenced to death for bombing the Chechen town of Shali.

The Russian military did not mention the claim in its regular statement and could

not immediately be reached for comment.

Mr. Udugov said the commanders of two Russian Air Force units also had been sentenced to death in absentia for ordering airstrikes on residential areas, according to Interfax.

In Moscow, the Russian Security Council, the country's main security body, is to meet Thursday to discuss the "restoration of Chechnya's economic and social infrastructure," the Interfax News Agency reported.

The council, headed by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, last met on March 6 to discuss the fight against crime, following the assassination of top television journalist Vladislav Listyev.

Japan police find 34 bottles of sarin solvent in raid on sect buildings

TOKYO (R) — Japanese police Wednesday discovered bottles of a solvent linked to the nerve gas attack on Tokyo subways when they raided facilities owned by the on Tokyo subways when they raided facilities owned by the secretive religious sect Aum Shinri Kyo.

In the massive raid, police said they confiscated 34 containers of the solvent acetone, the same chemical detected in Tokyo subway cars after Monday's attacks, along with residues of the nerve gas sarin.

As police entered the cult's buildings, sect followers screamed in protest. About 50 followers were taken to hospital in a "comatose state" and suffering from acute malnutrition, apparently after fasting.

The cult's leader was reported to have told followers this week the time had come to help him, that "it was time to carry out the salvation plan and to greet death without regrets."

The raid stemmed from an abduction charge and officials were not officially linking the sect to the nerve gas attacks which killed 10 people.

"Today's raid was about the abduction, so it was separate from the sarin case," said Kozo Igarashi, chief cabinet secretary. "But when investigating we, of course, think of various possibilities."

About 2,500 officers raided 25 building complexes of the sect in Tokyo and in the small village of Kamiku-Ishiki near its Fujinomiya Headquarters at the foot of Mount Fuji, 100 kilometres west of Tokyo.

In a rare move, they were accompanied by the army's anti-chemical warfare unit. Many wore gas masks and others carried gas canisters, apparently to detect gas.

Chemical experts said unidentified suspects in the sub-



Police carry out seized plastic tanks from a Tokyo headquarters of the controversial religious sect, the Aum Shinri Kyo. Some 3,000 policemen raided its headquarters and 25 locations around Tokyo two days after the deadly nerve gas attack on Tokyo's subway system (AFP photo)

way case could have used acetone, also known as methyl cyanide, to dilute sarin, which was developed by German scientists before World War II. A droplet of sarin can kill instantly.

The simultaneous attack on five subway trains during the rush hour killed 10 people. More than 5,500 passengers and subway officials were treated in hospital, and 70 people are still listed in critical condition.

Media suspicion fell on the sect because of an incident

last July near its Kamiku-Ishiki complex when the National Police Agency's Science squad detected sarin in the ground nearby. However, there was no criminal investigation because no one was harmed.

Search warrants for Wednesday's raids were issued in connection with the abduction of a 69-year-old man. Kiyoshi Kariya was last seen on Feb. 28 being pushed into a van by four men on a street near his home in central Tokyo.

according to Yonhap. State radio quoted workers at the U.S. insurance company as telling police the company had been threatened in mysterious phone calls. It gave no further details.

The accident came shortly after South Korean police were ordered to step up checks on crowded areas, including subway stations, in the wake of the Monday's toxic gas attack on the Tokyo subway system, in which 10 people were killed and 5,500 injured.

Dole warns Clinton on Russia visit

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — U.S. Senate majority leader Robert Dole told President Bill Clinton he must press Russian President Boris Yeltsin to end the bloodshed in Chechnya during his May 9 visit to Moscow.

"Now that he has made the decision to go ... Mr. Clinton must use the opportunity of his visit to address in detail ... strong U.S. objections to the brutal violence against Russian citizens in Chechnya," he said in a statement.

Republicans have criticised Clinton's decision to attend Russian celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the allied victory in Europe, charging that it is inappropriate in light of the fighting in Chechnya.

Mr. Clinton aides struggled with the decision on whether to accept the Russian invitation and stressed the U.S. president did not want to be at the centre of lavish military festivities as Russian troops battle Chechen separatists.

Gen. Dole stressed Mr. Clinton should attend V-E celebrations in London, Paris and Berlin.

While there is no doubt the Russian people were crucial partners in the Allied war effort, we must recognise it was the British and French who fought Nazi Germany from the beginning, and it is the Federal Republic of Germany which has become the model for democracy in post-cold war era," he said.

Gen. Dole, who has announced plans to run for the Republican presidential nomination, said Mr. Clinton must also tell the Russian leadership that Congress plans to make U.S. aid to Moscow conditional on the Kremlin's policy decisions.

"The president must deliver the message that the Russian government's support in the United States Congress is decreasing and that its action will determine the level of U.S. assistance it receives," Gen. Dole said.

Mr. Clinton must also express "U.S. displeasure with Russian support for the rogue regimes in Iraq, Iran, Serbia and Cuba," Gen. Dole said. Russia has angered the United States over its recent decision to sell a nuclear reactor to Iran, to keep a spy station open in Cuba and to support Iraq and Serbia in their drive to convince the United Nations to lift sanctions against them.

Bosnian combatants guarantee airlift safety

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian government and Serb forces have promised not to target U.N. flights into Sarajevo, opening the way for a resumption of the humanitarian airlift into the city, U.N. officials said Wednesday.

U.N. spokesman Alexander Ivanko said U.N. officials met Bosnia's warring parties Tuesday and "were given verbal assurances U.N. flight will not be targeted."

He added: "We hope this will satisfy the (aircraft) operators and the information we have from (U.N. Headquarters) in Zagreb is flights may resume as early as this afternoon although it is more likely they will start tomorrow."

Five planes were attacked by Serb soldiers while landing at Sarajevo Airport over the space of nine days, four were holed by heavy machine-gun fire and one was nearly hit by a 120mm mortar bomb.

The humanitarian airlift, on which Sarajevo residents depend for much of their food and medicine, was suspended on March 11 as a result of the attacks.

Some U.N. administrative flights, operated by private contractors and ferrying peacekeepers and U.N. civilian workers, continued but they too came under increasing attack.

Relief flights are operated out of Ancona, Italy by five Western nations who shuttle military transport planes back and forth across the Adriatic.

Restarting the airlift — which passed its 1,000 day of operation late last year — will come as good news to 11 Sarajevans in urgent need of medical care abroad, all of whom are dependent on U.N. planes for transportation.

Among the critically ill is 30-month-old Adina Alibasic, who is suffering from leukemia.

Doctors say the girl desperately needs treatment already arranged in Germany and will be sent out on the first available flight.

Meanwhile Serb and government forces battled in northeast Bosnia Wednesday and U.N. officials protested the hijacking by suspected Serbs of two more U.N. vehicles near here in an escalation of incidents which has prompted a new international push to save Bosnia's unravelling ceasefire.

Mr. Ivanko warned that if the fighting which erupted Monday around the U.N. "safe area" of Tuzla worsens further, "the situation could be catastrophic."

Artillery, rocket and machine-gun fire was reported overnight and Wednesday morning in the Majevica Hills area east of Tuzla and near Kalesija, in the northeast, U.N. spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Coward said.

Mr. Ivanko said the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) was lodging protests with both parties over the violations of the four-month

cessation of hostilities agreement concluded by the two parties at the start of the year.

The fighting in the northeast was sparked off Monday when Muslim-led government forces launched an offensive in the region.

U.N. officials also protested a series of almost daily hijackings of U.N. vehicles around Sarajevo after Danish and French peacekeepers were ambushed on two separate occasions late Tuesday.

Around 6.15 p.m., several armed men wearing Serb army uniforms held up the Danish U.N. vehicle as it drove through Serb-held territory west of the city, UNPROFOR spokesman Major Herve Gourmelon said.

The Danish soldiers were forced from their car at gunpoint and the hijackers drove off with their vehicle, weapons and a radio transmitter.

Shots were then fired at a U.N. civilian police car which turned up and attempted to give chase, he said.

Just over an hour later, several armed men intercepted a French U.N. vehicle travelling in the same area, hijacking the car.

Bosnian Serb authorities blame "bandits" or "uncontrolled elements" for the robberies but a U.N. official described their explanation as "absurd."

He said many of the stolen vehicles turn up in nearby

Pale, the Serb stronghold, painted in fresh camouflage colours.

UNPROFOR has suggested the Serbs are bent on escalating tension with blue helmets on the ground.

Meanwhile in Paris, Foreign Minister Alain Juppe met U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher Wednesday and the two agreed on the need for renewed efforts by the five-nation "contact group" to save the ceasefire in Bosnia and breathe life back into the peace process.

The contact group comprises Britain, France, Germany, the United States and Russia.

In an opinion column published Wednesday in the French daily Liberation, Mr. Juppe warned that "war is on the point of erupting again in Bosnia."

"The ceasefire which in principle ends next month is already seriously breached by all sides. Once again it feels we are just waiting for arms."

Mr. Christopher headed Wednesday to Geneva where Bosnia was expected to figure in talks with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev.

More than 1,400 shells fell in northeast Bosnia Tuesday and artillery exchanges continued throughout the night in the Majevica Hills area around the town, Col. Coward said.

The Bosnian army was believed to have captured some ground north of Tuzla, he added.

U.K. Queen: S. Africa memories tinged with sadness

PORT ELIZABETH, South Africa (R) — Britain's Queen Elizabeth said Wednesday happy memories of her last visit to South Africa 48 years ago were mixed with sadness at the length of the apartheid era.

"But in 1993 we meet in a new South Africa which has rejoined the Commonwealth... and is working hard to overcome the legacy of the years of apartheid and pre-

judice," said the queen, who celebrated her 21st birthday during the last royal tour.

The queen last visited South Africa with her father King George VI in 1947, a year before the then pro-apartheid National Party came to power and began institutionalising its policies of racial separation.

The queen speaking at a lunch at Port Elizabeth's Vista University, said the young

were South Africa's most precious resource.

"It is by helping to unlock the potential of this country's most precious resource — its young people — that South Africa's future success and harmony can best be assured."

She was greeted by hundreds of cheering students gathered along the entry road to the university, where the lunch as being hosted by

Eastern Cape Premier Raymond Mhlaba.

There was no sign of trouble at the university, where students of the Azanian Students Congress (AZASCO) have been boycotting classes for the last few weeks. The mayor of this city, named after the wife of a former British governor, had asked them to call of boycott for the royal visit.

Seoul threatens punishment if North breaks pact

SEOUL (R) — South Korean President Kim Young-Sam, fuelling a war of words with the Communist North, Wednesday threatened Pyongyang with punishment if it pulled out of a landmark nuclear pact with the United States.

Mr. Kim, speaking at a military graduation ceremony, accused North Korea of building up its military strength, sabotaging the fragile peace pact which ended the 1950-53 Korean War and stepping up a campaign of

anti-South Korean invective.

"North Korea will not be able to avoid being punished by the freedom and peace-loving world if it refuses to honour the nuclear agreement and thus chooses to run counter to the currents of the times," Mr. Kim told the graduates.

"The Korean peninsula... still remains the last battlefield of the cold war. This is because North Korea is still adhering to the confrontational policy of the cold war era, rebuffing our earnest en-

deavours to improve relations," he said.

North-South ties have deteriorated further since Pyongyang threatened to walk away from a pact with the United States under which it agreed to decommission its nuclear plants, where the West suspected atomic bombs were being developed.

In return, the United States agreed under the pact, signed on Oct. 21 in Geneva, to put together a consortium

to pay for the supply of safer, light-water reactors from which weapons-grade plutonium cannot be extracted.

But Pyongyang refuses to take South Korean-made reactors, a key element of the deal as Seoul is to pick up the lion's share of the \$4 billion price tag.

North Korea accused Washington of deliberately putting obstacles in the way of the Geneva pact by insisting on the South Korean-made models.

20 injured in mystery S. Korean gas leak

SEOUL (R) — About 20 people were taken to hospital in the South Korean capital Wednesday after being overcome by mystery gas fumes, police said.

A Seoul police spokesman said gas leaked through several floors of a 19-storey building in southern Seoul, which houses the office of American Insurance Company.

"We are investigating the incident in cooperation with a military anti-chemical team," he said without giving further details.

A spokeswoman at a Seoul hospital, where a dozen of the gas-affected patients were being treated, said their condition was improving.

Yonhap Domestic News Agency quoted a police source as saying the gas was first detected by a maintenance worker in some higher-floor offices when he operated the air-ventilation system of the building.

Police suspected that a gas used for the ventilation system might have caused the accident but did not rule out the possibility of sabotage,

according to Yonhap.

State radio quoted workers at the U.S. insurance company as telling police the company had been threatened in mysterious phone calls. It gave no further details.

The accident came shortly after South Korean police were ordered to step up checks on crowded areas, including subway stations, in the wake of the Monday's toxic gas attack on the Tokyo subway system, in which 10 people were killed and 5,500 injured.

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The message from Karameh

FOR THE past 26 years, Jordan has been celebrating the Battle of Karameh as one of the achievements of the Kingdom in defending its territory against Israeli aggression. The victory in Karameh, which came months after the defeat of 1967, played a great role in boosting the morale of Jordanians and other Arabs and proved that superior weapons are not the only factor that counts in the battlefield. Determination, belief in a cause and devotion to the land and its people were the greatest assets that the Jordanian soldiers had at Karameh. And with those they won the battle.

But the observance of Karameh this time around had even more significance to it. The occasion this year fell on a Jordan that has concluded a peace treaty with Israel on the basis of the return of its rights in land and water. Karameh was thus remembered as one of the sacrifices the country has made on the road to regaining its rights, on the road to peace.

Two messages emanated from the celebrations in this little town in the Jordan Valley Monday. First, that Jordan is committed to the pursuit of a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. The second is that as the Kingdom maintains its efforts to build the new peace, it will not forget its past, it will not forget the sacrifices its people made in the long struggle for justice in the region.

The Jordanian soldiers who died in Karameh died for a cause that Jordan will ever uphold. On that morning in 1968, Israel addressed Jordan with the language of war. The Kingdom responded to defend itself and its soldiers died protecting their land. The services those men did to their country will not be forgotten as peace begins to dig roots in the region. They will be remembered as men who helped make that peace possible.

When Israel started to show signs of realising that little long-term gains would the war bring it and accepted to talk peace with the Kingdom on the basis of ending its occupation of Jordanian land and returning our rights, Jordan responded and signed a peace treaty that brought it back the land that the men in Karameh fought for. And just as our soldiers fought with dignity at war, Jordanians fought with dignity in the battle for peace. Their long and difficult negotiations culminated in the peace treaty that led to the recovery of the Kingdom's rights.

Other Arabs are still engaged with Israel in difficult negotiations to regain their usurped rights. And as Jordan stood by them in the past, it stands by them now determined that only a comprehensive peace is a peace that can last. Israel should realise that. It should do what is required to achieve that peace. It should withdraw from Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese territories so that wars would be something of the past, not of the future.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR Arabic daily on Wednesday commended the major ceremony held in the Jordan Valley Tuesday in observance of the 27th anniversary of Al Karameh battle and said the ceremony was an honest expression of the feelings of the Jordanian people towards the Jordanian soldiers who sacrificed their blood to protect their country. The newspaper said in its editorial that the dignified ceremony was glorified more by the presence of His Majesty King Hussein, the supreme commander of the armed forces, who led Jordan's march to war and peace. This ceremony was an expression of loyalty to the memory of those martyrs who fell on the battlefield 27 years ago, it said. It added that the ceremony was also a recognition of the role of the Hashemite leadership in the battle in 1968 when the Jordanian army aborted a dawn attack by Israeli forces in the Jordan Valley. The newspaper said that it was natural to celebrate this battle in the time of peace, noting that Jordan will always pride itself in the shining leaves of its history, of its defence of its soil, dignity and right. Jordan, it said, will always remain loyal to its Arab message and will always defend the Arab Nation's right to progress and freedom.

DEALING ALSO with Al Karameh battle, Al Ra'i Arabic daily said the great living nations are the ones which proceed to the future while remembering their past. The newspaper said the peace treaty Jordan signed with Israel made the Kingdom mark the 27th anniversary of the battle in a very distinguished way. This emphasises that peace does not mean forgetting and cancelling all the years of war, patience, suffering and victory, the newspaper said. Peace, it said, commits Jordan to having a better future for its coming generations. It said the martyrs of the battle were present at the ceremony with their spirits to stress that they died for a sublime cause and that their sacrifices were not wasted. All the ink used to sign peace treaties and documents will not make the Jordanian people forget one drop of blood from a martyr, it said. The newspaper said those who chose to fight the war and survived its risks were those who chose to have peace. It said that it was happened when His Majesty the King chose to be among his soldiers at the ceremony to recall all these years between the battle and between signing the peace treaty with Israel.

The View from Academia

The exciting world of student exchange

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

STUDENT EXCHANGE programmes, especially at university level, are of immense importance. The benefits students reap from them are enumerable. Unfortunately, our universities (and the situation is more or less the same in the rest of the Arab World) are not paying these programmes enough attention.

Before we delve any further into the topic, let's limit the scope of discussion a little. Roughly, exchange programmes can be divided into two main types: Degree programmes and non-degree programmes. The former type, which is more well-known in our part of the world, refers to those programmes under the umbrella of which some university students are chosen by their mother university to study abroad on a grant, normally awarded by the host institution, by the government of the country in which the institution is located, or by an independent academic or cultural exchange establishment.

Students in this category travel abroad to obtain a diploma, a master's degree or a Ph.D. in a certain field. Our universities, though not as frequently as one would want, sign agreements of mutual cooperation, at times even of affiliation, with both Arab and international universities and send students to these said universities, as part of the agreement, to study for a period ranging from one to four years. At the end of this period they come back to work, either at the mother university itself or in the country at large.

The latter type, with which I am specifically concerned here, refers to those programmes, made available through liberal educational policies and facilitated by the mother institution, which permits the student (while still officially registered and before he/she graduates) to spend time at an institution abroad. While students do not earn a degree from the host institution, they earn credit which counts towards their graduation from the mother university.

Such practice, extremely enlightened and perceptive in my opinion, not only is very frequent at nearly all colleges and universities in the more fortunate countries of today's world, but has in fact become an essential component of university experience. At most American colleges or universities, for example, a student (both at the graduate and undergraduate levels) who is interested in spending time abroad can take a semester, a year or even a longer period with no questions asked. The reasons for taking time off are as varied as the people who do that and the interests they have. Students take time off because: They are interested in studying a particular subject at a particular university abroad; they want to visit a certain country; they want to have a more cosmopolitan experience; they would like to experience independence, or simply because they wish to change the scene a little.

When I was in the U.S. I knew students who left for

Africa to study a certain animal in its natural habitat; students who went to the former USSR to find out what the "other" system was like; students who travelled in India to gain first-hand experience of daily Indian life; and others who went to China without having the faintest idea of what to expect just "for the heck of it."

The benefits of study or stay abroad, even for a short period, are limitless. One deepens one's knowledge of a certain field. Would not an anthropologist specialising in nomadic cultures make great use of a stay in the Near East? Would not a student of ours specialising in English language or literature benefit immensely from spending a semester or a year in Britain or America? This is especially true in the case of our students most of whom have very little knowledge of the world and very little self-reliance. We hear so many things about the Arab Nation. At school, we study its history, its geography, its economy, etc.

But very few of us, while still studying, get the chance to see another Arab country. All of my life I have heard about Damascus, Aleppo and Kasab. I had the chance to visit them only a couple of years ago. I would have immensely enjoyed spending a year at Aleppo University, at the University of Cairo, or at the American University of Beirut. Most of our students are too reliant on their parents, even when they study at Yarmouk or Ma'ta and their parents live in Amman. A stay at European, American, South Asian or even Arab university would give them the chance to manage and function on their own a little more assertively and affirmatively.

Exchange programmes of this sort are almost unheard of at our universities. In fact, our students, the vast majority, I would say, do not know what "exchange" means; they are not familiar with it. They do not see other fellow students practising it, and our institutions neither introduce the idea nor encourage students to embark on it. This is something that we do not trouble ourselves with, even though there is nothing against it in our laws. It is unfortunate that our students, especially at the undergraduate level, go to university and want to finish in three or four years and leave.

Were our students, under the present circumstances, to embark on such an adventure, tremendous obstacles would emerge. First and foremost would be the parents. What do you mean you want to take a year off, they would say? The second obstacle would be the different systems at the different universities, especially in the Arab World where the year-system, as opposed to the credit-hour system, is still alive and kicking in many countries. Coordination of such programmes among Arab countries would be a real headache. It is a sad fact, but true nonetheless, that it would be easier and more convenient for one of our

students to go to Honolulu, with which we have so little in common, than to go to an Arab country next door, whose language we speak, whose culture we are familiar with and whose travel and living expenses are less costly.

The third would be the mentality and whimsical perceptions of our educational institutions themselves which are not good generally in dealing with sophisticated ideas and new challenges. Rather than rise to the occasion and go out of their way to make something work, they would kill a programme, a project or an idea just because they do not want to have a "headache."

Most of our educational institutions are extremely inflexible. A good example would be what happens to students after they have taken the time off and are back. How much credit are they going to accumulate? We have a glimpse of this from what happens presently to transfer students. Presently, students transferring to our universities from other institutions lose a great deal of credit-hours because our institutions are extremely rigid in their policies. A student who has studied a course on, say, Arabic and European history, has a hard time convincing the committee looking into his case that such a course is equivalent to a course on Arabic history. "The titles of the two courses are different and the content is different," the committee usually insists. If the case is such with courses that are similar, how about those which have nothing in common, for example a language course and a physical education one?

This is all true. Change is not easy to bring about. And yet with vision, open-mindedness and will, everything is possible. Our parents are not as unreasonable as many would have us believe. The minute the system begins to work, they will be competing to let their kids take part. As for our institutions, while it is next to impossible to sway their minds from "below" (i.e. through motions and proposals by students and faculty members), it is very easy to sway their minds and bend their arms from above. The initiative has to come from those directly in charge of higher education themselves, and the idea will work like magic. The ball is in the court of the Higher Educational Council and high ranking administrators at our universities. Deepdown our society is receptive to good ideas. Deepdown our administrators (at least a good number of them) are also receptive of good ideas and of positive signals. In the matter at hand, such a signal has already been given — by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, during his recent visit to the Fulbright headquarters in Amman.

We have a great deal to gain from exchange programmes. At least we will make life for our students, who find themselves on campuses without much life and who are extremely bored, a little more exciting and stimulating.

U.S.-Russian summit to face host of problems

By Graham Brown
Agence France Presse

MOSCOW — The U.S.-Russia summit here in May will have to grapple with a daunting list of past-cold war problems ranging from Russian instability to European security and a right-wing resurgence in Washington.

On Monday, after nearly six months of hesitation, President Bill Clinton finally accepted a Russian invitation to celebrations in Moscow marking the end of World War II in Europe, and to a summit two days afterwards.

Once the victory party is over, the two presidents will have to come to grips with disputes including Russian aggression in Chechnya, expansion of NATO, Russian nuclear support for Iran and the war in ex-Yugoslavia.

Sergei Stankevitch, a member of the foreign relations commission of the Russian Duma (lower house of parliament), said agreement to hold the summit was a victory for U.S. and Russian diplomacy at a time of deteriorating relations.

"There is no doubt that relations between our two countries are and will continue to become more tense and more cool, and less important."

Most of the quarrels between the two sides are likely to get a pre-summit airing at a meeting in Geneva between U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozirev on Wednesday and Thursday.

Clinton has already been strongly attacked by powerful rightwing Republican Senator Jesse Helms for accepting the invitation to Moscow while Russian troops are still using military might to crush secessionists in break-away Chechnya.

Clinton accepted the invitation only after President Boris Yeltsin announced that there would be none of the traditional military hardware on display at the May 9 WWII victory commemoration in Red Square.

But Mr. Helms claimed that Mr. Clinton's presence would still be seen as tacit acceptance of Russian brutality in the Chechnya war, which is still raging after

more than three months. Mr. Clinton's refusal to be too scathing in condemnation of the Chechnya conflict reflects Washington's belief that Mr. Yeltsin is still the best bet to push through political and economic reform in Russia.

One major reason for Mr. Clinton's trip will be to cajole a reluctant Russian parliament to ratify the START II treaty, under which 9,000 U.S. former Soviet warheads would be destroyed by the year 2003.

The Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty was signed in January 1993 by Mr. Yeltsin and former U.S. president George Bush, but has yet to be ratified by either side.

U.S. intelligence sources say that the Duma is reluctant to ratify the treaty and run down Russia's nuclear forces, given the poor state of its conventional forces.

Another nuclear hot potato is U.S. anger at a contract recently signed by Russia to complete the Bushehr nuclear power station in Iran.

Washington claims the plant would give Iran a capability to make nuclear bombs. Russia denies this, and says the United States is trying to keep it out of the lucrative Iranian market.

The U.S. Congress has threatened to block aid to Russia if it goes ahead with the project.

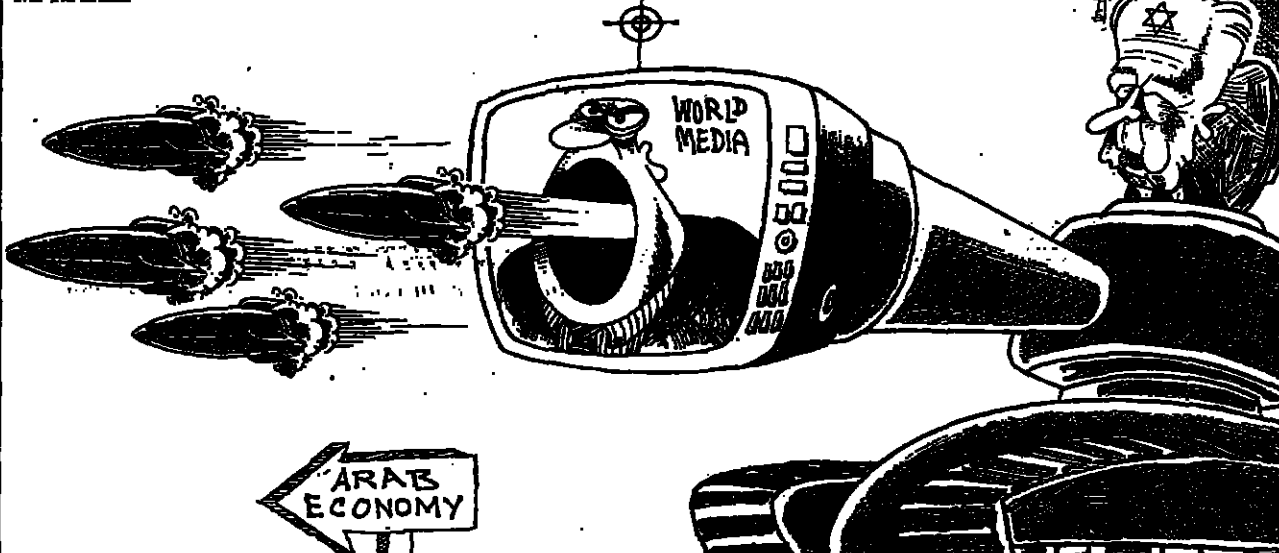
But diplomats say the hardest summit issue could be overcoming Russian objections to plans for expanding the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) to take in former Soviet bloc countries Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic.

Since the last U.S.-Russia summit, held in Washington in September, the Russian leadership has stepped up its rhetoric against the eastward enlargement of NATO, saying that this would pose a direct security threat to Russia.

But Clinton is under particular pressure from the U.S. Congress to support the membership applications of Moscow's former allies and ignore the Russian opposition.

The summit is also bound to deal with the ongoing conflict in ex-Yugoslavia where Russia, traditionally more pro-Serb than its western partners in the five-nation "contact group," wants sanctions lifted against rump Yugoslavia.

M. KAHIL



Pakistan's missing opportunities

By Dr. S. Farooq Hassanat

RECENT INFIGHTING in Karachi received mixed reactions. On the one hand it made the opponents of Pakistan gloat with joy. On the other, countries like Jordan expressed sympathy and concern, hoping that the violent conflict would subside soon. While the unabated violence went on, a number of questions are being raised, relating to nearly all aspects of the Pakistani society. Pakistani commentators are divided in their interpretation of the situation. Some say that the authorities have not used enough force to end the violence, while others maintain that it was the arbitrary use of force that led to the present situation.

The explanation to the cause of the strife in the urban centres of Pakistan, however, deserves a much more careful analysis. The dilemma has to be assessed in a perspective that is based on an understanding of developing societies that are composed of multi-ethnic and lingual communities. The violence has at least two causes. First, it is the result of the gradually attained defects in the administrative management of the country and second, it was escalated by the lack of the determination on behalf of the political leadership to improve the country's infrastructure up to the demands of the day. More broadly speaking, the Pakistani domestic conflict has to be analysed within the framework of a multiple of factors, ranging from the external pressures to that of the readjustment in the domestic institutions.

This situation could not have surfaced at a worse time, when in the post-cold war era, developing countries and regional groupings are striving to attract the

much needed investment from abroad. It came at a time when multinational corporations are planning enterprises in the developing countries, where the requirement of a cheap labour can be met. Pakistan has an advantage in this regard of having a fairly large trained labour force. This also at a time when Pakistan is being pressured to "roll-back" its peaceful programme, and to subject itself to verification under the terms of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). In addition the U.S. is holding back on the delivery of the remaining F-16s it sold the Pakistan and whose full price has been paid, and is also imposing economic restrictions on the country.

On top of that, the Pakistani private sector has not as yet replaced the bulky and highly inefficient public sector. Disintegrated state enterprises still hold ground, making matters more difficult for the transformation. The required changes are to be made in all branches of the machinery — health, education, transportation, industry, agriculture and even communications and railway.

Success stories of the late 20th century — Singapore, South Korea, Malaysia and Indonesia were, in the 1960s and 1970s, on the same level of development as that of Pakistan. In fact, Pakistan was a role model for these countries, both in agricultural as well as in industrial development in those days. One would like to remember the days when Pakistan became a favourite ground for the "Harvard Boys," who in search of success models used to quote Pakistan extensively. The text books of these two decades are full of Pakistani examples. According to World Bank

estimates and international agencies' reports only a few years back, it was predicted that Pakistan was ready to take off and mature to become a middle income country. The departure between the two types appeared in the approach and strategy adopted by the Far Eastern nations. In those societies the private entrepreneurs did not mature out of the evolutionary process, as on the pattern of the Western capitalism. In the Asian countries, private enterprise was enforced through government channels. In other words, the government itself, on voluntary basis, decided to lessen its power, so as to raise the economic standards of the country.

The main hurdle obstructing the economic, social and administrative development of Pakistan can be attributed to the lack of adequate political acumen and development of modern institutions. The leadership was either too weak to initiate a progressive programme or it was occupied with such grave problems as the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. The absence of the continuity of political leadership was yet another reason for the lack of enthusiasm in the development of Pakistan. It must be mentioned here that from 1993 five prime ministers changed hands each one having his or her own manifesto.

In spite of the above mentioned factors, the future is far from gloomy. There is a long list of recent successes, both in foreign as well as domestic spheres. Pakistan recently hosted a summit of Economic Cooperation Conference (ECO), where important decisions on trade, and communication were taken by the member nations of Iran, Turkey, the Central Asian

republics and Azerbaijan. Pakistan has been instrumental in providing humanitarian aid to the people of Afghanistan, while maintaining a strict neutrality in the internal affairs of that country. While the struggle went on in Kashmir, Pakistan continued to provide moral support to the victimised, in spite of enormous external pressures.

Another feat is the opening of a new land route between Pakistan and the Central Asian republics, especially Uzbekistan. Transit through Afghanistan still poses serious hurdles, but with the inaugural trip successfully concluded, there are bright prospects that a regular service could operate in the future.

On the domestic front, Pakistan has been able to adhere to the 1973 constitution, despite of the martial law period of 1977-1988. General Zia could not abrogate the constitution but rather chose to set it aside. The bases provided by the current Constitution represent a unanimity of national opinion as it was agreed by all the parties elected to the parliament in 1970 elections. The constitution provides a chance for the political institutions to strengthen and develop. At least, a foundation has been laid.

Pakistan is too important a country to be ignored in any future regional readjustments. In the changing circumstances, Pakistan has to play a significant role and reconstruct its relations with its traditional allies. Still further, it has to put its options in proper perspective.

Dr. Hassanat is Professor of Political Science at University of the Punjab in Lahore, Pakistan. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

Abbadis join hands to enhance capital's cultural life

By Mohammad Masharqa

Mamdouh Abbadi and Mohammad Abbadi both belong to the Abbadi bedouin tribe of central Jordan. But despite their bedouin heritage both are providing a great deal to Amman's urban life. The first, a dentist by profession and the mayor of the capital, and the second, a film director, are cooperating to bring the First International Theatre Festival to Amman.

The festival, the Amman Theatre Days, will feature theatre groups and experts from Europe, Russia, Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, Palestine and Morocco and will include the holding of the workshops and lectures.

For Jordanian artists, who participated many times in other festivals on the international level, this is a dream come true. Everyone had believed that Amman was financially incapable of undertaking such a feat. The strongest obstacle had always been

the lack of a modern management that is both cultural and democratic.

Now the two Abbadis are collaborating to realise the dream. The mayor, Mamdouh, is providing the logistics and the funds; and the other, Mohammad, a former president of the Artists Association, is heading the festival's higher committee.

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

The idea is the brainchild of Nader Omran, the leader of Al Fawanees Theatre Group. Omran, an accomplished scenographer, and Khalid Tarifi, a leading play producer and actor, for years at odds with each other, are going to cooperate to ensure the success of the festival.

Mohammad Abbadi says he wants to involve many sectors of the society including the army, the Public Security Department, the press and the private sector

in different ways to ensure the success of the festival.

"We want to give the next generation of artists the solid basis to continue building on a modern, creative theatre which can represent Jordan internationally."

Mr. Abbadi said he hoped that the festival would help to promote Amman as a leading city for the arts.

"We have to open Amman to pluralism, modernism and high quality art to pass the message to other Arab capitals that we breed courageous and genuine experiences in art. Our belief is that freedom of expression and open mind creates great art."

The financial and moral support extended by the Amman Municipality is a show of determination that Mayor Abbadi wants to transform a traditional institution into a modern one. "We hope that our example will be spread onto other municipalities throughout the Kingdom," Mamdouh Abbadi said.

It is worth noting that the municipality has been publishing a cultural magazine, Amman, for the last year, which includes the works of talented writers.

Mr. Abbadi, the organiser, wants to include the private sector because, he says, there is mutual interest between cultural production and the commercial sector.

"It is the Jordanian artists' duty to produce high quality art that would generate more trust and better basis for effective cooperation between the two parties," he explained.

The Amman Theatre Days will introduce five local plays, five Arab and five European plays.

It is hoped that unlike the Third Jordanian Theatre Festival, which had a rigid and conservative management, art lovers hope that the management of the international festival will be different.

The Amman Theatre Days start next week. It will be an opportunity to test the intellectual and artistic abilities of Jordanians versus those of other Arab and international artists. It will also be an opportunity for the Jordanian audience to enjoy a variety of artwork and take a short leave from the political and economic pressures they have been going through.

SOCIETY ON THE MOVE

Of preservation, innovation and creation — and some all-American fun

Dutch artist Gerti Bierenbroodspot leaves Jordan temporarily today after an extended stay, her second since 1990, in which she submerged herself in the heart and soul of Petra. No stranger to this ancient place, which she describes as "stepping into metaphors of archaeology, architecture and mythology," Bierenbroodspot said of her recent stay that the changes she witnessed in Petra were worrisome. She points to the towering concrete buildings of new hotels, saying "I never thought there would be so much development taking so much away from the beautiful expansive views in Petra." The growing number of vendors inside the site was a shock to her. Concerned with the fragility, not only of the sandstone but of Petra's nature, Bierenbroodspot, who is an active member of the Petra National Trust (PNT), has worked with archaeologists of the Department of Antiquities to help save "a recent discovery of a whole Nabataean village in Braq." Her contribution was to draw exact depictions of the site to help strengthen the archaeologists' case to save such discoveries. She recognises that development is inevitable, but Bierenbroodspot sees hope in all concerned authorities and institutions working jointly to preserve Petra. In fact, she planned to propose to the Ministry of Tourism that the unsightly concrete facades of the hotels above the city be painted in a "camouflage" that would blend in with the natural colour of the rock formations. "It's a simple paint formula that I can mix for them," says Bierenbroodspot. Her personal attachment to Petra is bringing her back to her own Holland where she will work to hold a benefit exhibition there to raise money for the PNT. She envisages that such funds could be used, for example, to train the indigenous tribe of Bedouls to become rangers. Naturally her own work in Petra these last few months will keep her busy in canvases and a book. But it was when Bierenbroodspot talked of her vision of producing an opera about Nabataean heroine that one could grasp the power of Petra's "charisma." Such an undertaking would require at least two years, and Bierenbroodspot looks at it as a once-in-a-lifetime event because she would only seek to have a one, maximum two-night, performance in Petra. Bierenbroodspot has her eye on American opera star Jesse Norman to play the leading role. Meanwhile, there is much work to be done, but



Gerti Bierenbroodspot

Bierenbroodspot will return again in the early summer and take up residence in her new-found home in Petra where she intends to continue her various vocations.

IN THE RANGE FOR A ROVER: Just as the new class of French Renault and Citroen executive cars were making their debut on the streets of the Kingdom, in comes Britain's Rover series. At a reception which opened to the fanfare trumpets of the British military band, The Green Jackets, Rover distributor Jordan Automobile Company General Manager Nihad Zacharia and advertising agents Promoseven unveiled the model cars to 400 guests who for a moment were breathless. Was it the car, the display or the moment of surprise, we may never know, but a good time was had by all. Just getting over the whirlwind attached to a visit to Jordan by his Prime Minister and a high-powered delegation of U.K. businessmen, the ever-enthusiastic British Ambassador, Peter

Hinchcliff, was right there doing a pitch for British products. The event was inaugurated by Ministry of Industry and Trade Mohammad Smadi who deputised for His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah. Eyeing the new sleek line of Rover cars were Honorary Consul of the Netherlands Raouf Abu Jaber, Romero Restaurant Proprietor Zeid Ksous, Architect Jaffar Toukan, his son, attorney Ibrahim Toukan, Ideal Systems/Apple Computer proprietor Karim Kaware, several shipping agents, Rotarians and other invited guests. If the good mood of the evening is to be translated into a prediction of sales, then those classic navy and grey Renault Sabanes and Citroen Xantia's will have to make room for some flash red Rover 820Si's. By the way, the colour range of the Rover line this year just happens to be the colours of the Jordanian flag. That could not really be coincidence, could it?

AMERICANS HIT THE BEACH: The American Center, in cooperation with the Aqaba Gulf Hotel, began the "first-ever" America Week in Aqaba yesterday with a reception and musical concert by Billy and Toni Stevens, who have performed in Jordan previously. On the programme for the rest of the week are musical performances, exhibits and an authentic American food festival. "American Week in Aqaba is an important opportunity to bring audiences outside of Amman some of our best artistic and information programmes," says Peter Kovach, counselor for Press and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. Information Service of the embassy. The line up of events also includes a photography exhibit titled, "Young America," a poster show on American Jazz, video programmes and an international telephone dialogue on tourism and investment. The Aqaba Gulf Hotel will offer a selection of American favourites such as hamburgers and hotdogs along with several prizes and fun family activities throughout the week, according to Food and Beverage Manager Khalid Abu Ghoush who will have his hands full seeing to it that "rare" means rare.



OMAR IN THE NEWSROOM: The Jordan Times proudly announces the birth of Omar Hassan Khalil Wahbeh (3.7 kilos), first-born son of JT Staff Reporter Ica Wahbeh and her husband, Hassan Khalil Wahbeh. The JT newsroom was filled with jubilation at the news of the on-target arrival, predicted by Dr. Zeid Kilani, on March 21, the first of Spring and Mother's Day of little Omar. But when our freelance reporter/photographer Rana Hussein stormed in with the first photos of the happy Wahbeh family the excitement started all over again. What needs to be said here is that for the nine months everyone waited, a "name the baby competition" pitted JT editors, reporters, freelancers and proof-readers against each other, not to mention the camps outside the newspaper. But the secret to the Ica and Hassan formula brought about a beautiful compromise, and now we have Omar.

Jennifer Hamarneh

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

AMAZING FACTS

★ Is yawning contagious? Yes, it is, in fact, I bet you might have yawned already whilst reading this. When your body is tired, your respiratory system slows down and spasm in the muscles of your throat takes place, forcing you to take in more air — hence a yawn.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ E is the most used letter in the English language.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ During the American Civil War a Confederate general by the name of Ewell frequently had hallucination when he believed he was a bird. During these times he would chirp like a bird and eat nothing but wheat grains.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ The word "parlour" originated in monasteries where one room was set aside in which the monks were allowed to speak (parler). The word parliament also comes from the same root, and we all know what a lot of talking goes on there.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ Christiane Eberhardine, Queen of Poland 1697-1727, never set foot in that country during the whole of her 30 years reign.

★ Arrested in 1690 on a political offence John Bernardini was kept in Newgate Prison without trial for 46 years. During his imprisonment he married and fathered 10 children.

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

— Live up to what's expected of you by hard work and honesty.

Haq'iq al-ma'mool minka bel-ijthad wal-istiqlama.

— You got an excellent grade in your diploma. Why didn't you go on and finish your education?

Laqad hasalta ala darajet mumtax fil-bakaluria.

Lematha lam tastamir fee itmam ts'leemika?

— It's circumstances, Your Excellence. Life can be summed up in two words: Hello and Goodbye.

Innahaz-zuroof ya sahibas-saada. Al-hayat yomken tal'kheesaba bekalimatayn: Istiqbal wa tawdi'.

— Put your trust in God and start your study just now.

Tawakkal alal'Lah wab'da fee derasatik minal-aan.

— I'll do it as soon as possible, madam.

Sa'afalu zalik fee akrah waqten momken ya sayyadati.

— Make effort to gain the confidence and friendship of your seniors.

Eemal ala kasb thiqat al-ru'asaa wa-sadakatihim.

— May God guide you steps towards success and happiness.

La'alla Allah yu'waffiqoq wa-tuhaqiq an-najah was-saada.

TIME FOR FUN

★ The husband hurried to the Health Office saying to the official in charge: "I want a death certificate for my mother-in-law, sir?"

"When did she die?"

"The doctor told me she would never live more than three hours!"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ A man went to the owner of the highest building that consists of eleven storeys and asked him the prices of the apartments for let.

The proprietor answered: "On the first floor 110 pounds, the second 90, the third 80 — the tenth 10. "..... and when will you start building the eleventh storey, sir?"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

★ "Why were you absent from work the other day?" said the boss to the employee.

"I had a pain because of my wisdom tooth. It was awfully killing."

"Is it aching you now?"

"I don't know. It's still at the doctor's!"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. A morganatic marriage describes what kind of union?
2. Brooklyn and Staten Islands are connected by the longest and heaviest single span suspension bridge in the world. What is it called?
3. Where was Interpol founded?
4. Arachnida is a word used to describe spiders. What is the origin of this word?
5. Tolstoy's War & Peace has been adapted as an opera. Who is the composer?
6. Who was Alexander the Great's general who took over the government of Egypt when Alexander died?
7. What are "the Royal Peculiar's"?

PUZZLES

MAKING HISTORY

Alan Shepard made history aboard the spacecraft Freedom 7 on May 5, 1961. What did he do?

Use the LETTERS below to complete the puzzle and get the answer.

Each letter may be used only once.

UNSACHTIRO

★ — E, — EC — ME, — HE
★ F — R — T, AME — I — A —
★ ASTR — NA — T

Pakistan — Land of the Indus Valley Civilisation

Ancient and mysterious, for centuries the land which is now Pakistan has attracted scholars and mystics, adventurers and mercenaries. Up its craggy defiles have climbed such warriors and Alexander the Great and Genghis Khan, in search of plunder and glory. More peacefully, its cities of Harappa and Mohenjodaro were at the heart of the great Indus Valley Civilisation over 4,500 years ago.

On March 23, 1940, a resolution was adopted by the Muslim League, representing Muslims of British India, demanding a separate independent homeland for the Muslims. Pakistan emerged on the map of the world as a sovereign state on August 14, 1947, when the British Indian Empire was partitioned into two independent states: India and Pakistan.

Modern Pakistan, born in 1947 out of the ashes of Imperial India, has inherited the beauties of its ancient past. Physically a dramatic country, it boasts eight of the world's 10 highest peaks, including the breath-taking K2. Here, in the permanent snow and frost of the far north, giant glaciers spill down the mountain slopes melting at lower altitudes and filling the gorges below with raging torrents of white water.

Pakistan Jordan relations

As an Islamic and non-aligned country, Pakistan resolutely supports the principles of respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of states and non-use of force as well as the internationally recognised norms of good neighbourliness, peaceful co-existence and friendly cooperation for mutual benefit. Pakistan, therefore, remains fully committed to upholding the principles and purposes of the U.N. Charter, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organisation of Islamic Conference and equitable world order in which nations can live in peace and security, while devoting their energies to building a prosperous future.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan enjoy very close and cordial relations which are characterised by religious, historic and cultural affinities, commonality of views on important regional and international



Father of the Nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah

issues, cooperation in various fields and moral and material support rendered by the two countries to each other in time of need.

There have been regular high level visits between Jordan and Pakistan. His Majesty King Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan who are held in high esteem by the Government and the people of Pakistan, have often visited Pakistan. There have been regular visits by heads of state and governments from Pakistan to Jordan also.

Pakistan has strong economic, trade, cultural and military cooperation with Jordan. Under the Cultural Agreement, Pakistan presently provides large number of seats to Jordanian students in various professional fields. Out of these, three are offered with scholarship by the Ministry of Education. Besides these, any number of students can avail themselves of university education in Pakistani educational institutions on a self-financing basis.

Jordan also avails training programmes in railway courses and commercial banking in Pakistan. Jordan also offers three scholarships to Pakistani students in various educational institutions every year.

Promotion of closer and brotherly relations with the Arab World have been among the guiding principles of Pakistan's foreign policy. Pakistan's solidarity with Arab World is the most striking and dominant feature of the history of the Pakistani nation. Support to Arab causes precedes even the

creation of Pakistan as a sovereign state in 1947.

Pakistan: A moderate Islamic state

Pakistan is a genuinely Islamic society symbolising liberal and progressive forces, not a retrogressive approach, and the election of Ms. Benazir Bhutto as Prime Minister is a manifestation of its moderate Islamic ethos. A religion which accommodates political plurality cannot conceivably be considered as leading towards bigotry and intolerance. Similarly, if it can accept the elections of a woman as chief executive, it possesses liberty of thought not narrow perceptions.

For the betterment of women, wide ranging measures have been adopted by the government to offer equal opportunities and ensure better treatment. Institutions have been set up to provide impetus and openings to them for building independent careers. Support centres and legal aid societies have been created to counter injustice, discrimination and atrocities against both women and minorities. The former's status in the society is automatically strengthened by Ms. Benazir Bhutto filling the chief executive's slot.

Some recent developments created misgivings vis-a-vis fundamentalism in Pakistan as for example, blasphemy erupted as an issue. However, a superior court restored the confidence of the people in the state's commitment to a tolerant approach.



His Majesty King Hussein Bin Talal

Social action plan: An umbrella for the poor

The government has launched an ambitious and innovative Social Action Programme (SAP) aimed at providing basic needs to the poorer and underprivileged of Pakistan's 100 million population, particularly in thousands of villages dotting its countryside. SAP has emerged from years of extensive discussions and decades of cooperation between development planners and donor countries and organisations. An exhaustive study by the World Bank about alleviation of poverty in Pakistan was particularly helpful in the designing of the \$7 billion social action programme.

SAP is a five year programme, dovetailed into the country's 8th Five Year Plan launched in 1993-94, comprising tens of thousands of small schemes in the lagged social sectors. It has come to be known as the "umbrella" for the poor because it covers and protects thousands of small schemes that aim to supply drinking water to rural population and deliver basic health services at their doorstep to the rural folks.

It was under SAP that several thousand teachers and health workers have been employed by the federal and four provincial governments during the last one year. SAP deals with primary education, primary health, population planning, sewerage and potable drinking water and government has undertaken an integrated

care service in Pakistan's 48,000 villages. Under the programme, a female trainee with 8-10 years of schooling is being recruited and trained at the nearest Basic Health Unit. Several U.N. agencies like United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), UNICEF, UNFPA and IDA are contributing to this aspect of the primary health care project.

The World Bank board of governors at its last meeting in Washington extended full support to SAP and expressed the hope that this programme would markedly improve Pakistan's "social indicators." The donors have made it known to the Pakistan government that they are ready to help in the implementation of the social action programme in its second phase.

Pakistan's march to industrialisation

The forward looking economic policies being pursued by the present Pakistan Government have so far attracted over \$18 billion of foreign investments for various energy and infrastructural projects.

The private sector has committed to invest in power generation, new refineries, gas importation schemes, oil pipelines, oil and gas exploration and development as well as various other infrastructural projects. And the government's power and petroleum policies have resulted in massive induction of foreign private capital in energy resources exploitation and the infrastructural development. Incentives in the new petroleum policy have accelerated the pace of exploration.

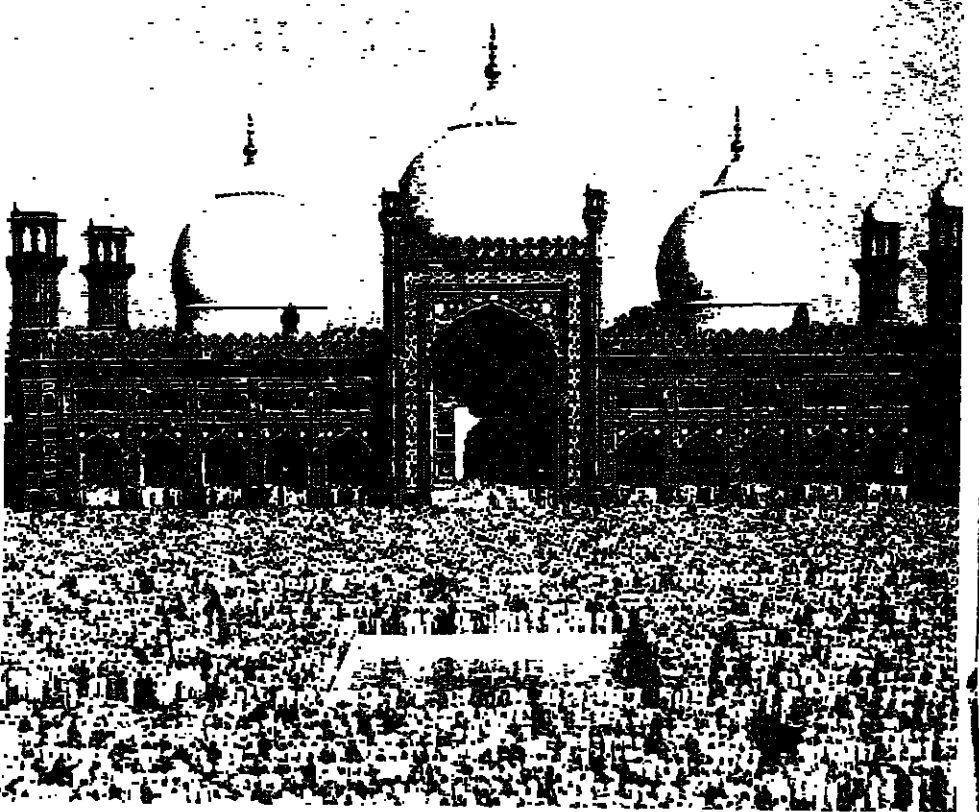
Three oil pipelines are to be laid between Karachi and Lahore to carry oil from Karachi to up-country in three phases. In the first phase, pipeline would be laid from Karachi to Jamshoro; in the second, from Jamshoro to Kahmoorkot; while in third and last phase, it will be extended to Lahore.

Two pipelines would be used to carry white petroleum products while the third is for black oil. These pipelines would also serve several thermal power stations being set up in the private sector. After about 20 years, the Government has again started work on the

Pak-Arab refinery project. The three new ones being set up are Pak-Kuwait, Pak-Iran and Pak-Oman, having total refining capacity of six million tonnes per annum. The Government has prepared Rs. 700 billion crash programme to generate energy through economic exploitation and correct utilisation of oil, gas, coal and hydro-electricity resources for meeting the country's energy demand growing at the rate of 12 per cent annually.

Hubco power station, one of the world's largest private sector power plant and the biggest in Pakistan, is nearing completion and will go into trial production in June next year. According to its chief executive Michael Woodroffe, the plant is expected to meet 13 per cent of the nation's power needs. Woodroffe said, the plant being built near Karachi on a turnkey basis by a consortium of international companies, would go into full commercial operation by March 1997 with a capacity of 1,292 megawatts.

Three coal-based power (Continued on page C)



Eid prayer at Badshahi Mosque, Lahore.



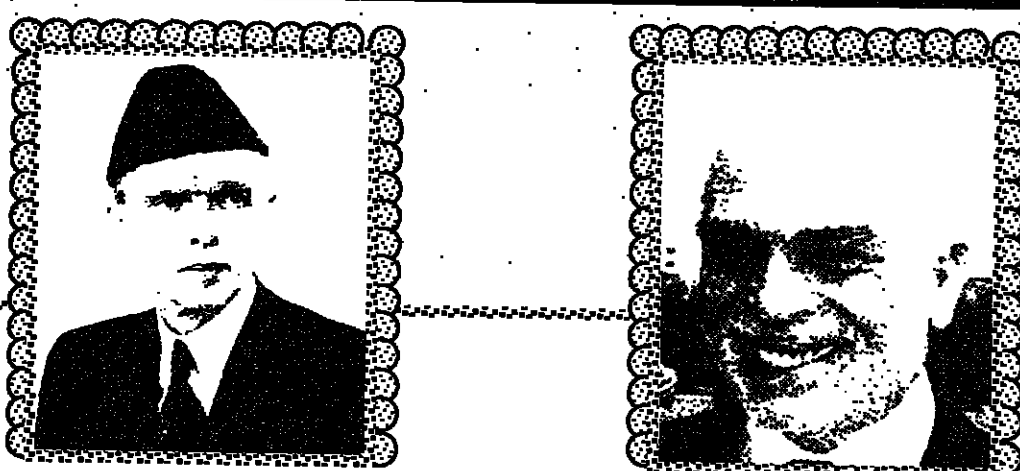
JORDAN FERTILIZER INDUSTRY COORDINATION COMMITTEE

Jordan Phosphate Mines Company



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Oscar effects — visual tricksters reach new heights

By John Horn
The Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, California — Don't trust an all-gummy bear diet, a get-quick-rich scheme involving llamas and, above all else, anything on a movie screen.

Hollywood always has been a town fueled by make-believe, but what's unbelievable is how far the fantasists have come. Even what seems "real" in a movie these days — a scattering flock of birds, a fluttering moth — is often a computer-crafted substitute.

The technology has come so far the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences in February granted branch status to its visual effects members — the first new branch in 42 years.

Three of 1994's most popular live-action films, *Forrest Gump*, *The Mask* and *True Lies*, showcased special effects considered impossible a few years ago. The visual effects teams from all three films

are nominated for Academy Awards, and a look at their work offers a rare peek at the tricks of the trade.

The most eye-catching effects in *Forrest Gump* are the most self-evident: Gump (Tom Hanks) meeting President Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon. "But in a big way, the success of *Forrest Gump* is in the less-obvious effects. The archival shots were a third of what the movie is about," says George Murphy, part of the Oscar-nominated visual effects team.

Take the scene early in the film in which Forrest and Jenny hide from her father in a corn field. As the camera pulls back, a flock of birds takes off towards the horizon. It's a lovely, metaphorical shot — except it never happened.

Director Robert Zemeckis tried to use real doves, but they refused to follow his guidance (see if they ever work in this town again). Industrial Light and Magic (ILM)

effects specialists subsequently created a single dove on a computer, digitally copying it to make three dozen. The binary birds were animated, then laid over the shot of Forrest and Jenny, forming a "digital composite" image.

Audiences may say, "how'd they do that?" about the presidents, but most don't notice this deceit. It all looks genuine. "It would have been the hardest effect several years ago, and it was casual in this film," Murphy says.

Forrest excels at ping-pong, even though Hanks didn't hit a ball on camera. Swinging in rhythm to a rapid-fire metronome, Hanks was filmed miming play. ILM added a blurred ball later. The Chinese flags in one ping-pong scene were inadvertently hung upside-down, and they were painstakingly righted through a special effect (called a roto-scope) that cut the stars out of the flag and flipped them.

There are dozens of other effects audiences aren't supposed to see. The actor playing young Gump couldn't run well, so in one sprint the actor's face was superimposed on a more athletic stand-in's body. The film's signature feather was guided by a fishing line that was electronically painted out of every frame.

The archival *Forrest Gump* effects can't help but call attention to themselves. That would be a disaster, however, for the effects on *True Lies*.

"The whole goal of every effects guy is to do digital composites so well the audience is confused," says *True Lies* visual effects supervisor John Bruno, an Oscar-winner nominated for the third year in a row.

A full-throttle action film starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, *True Lies* used almost every arrow in the special effects quiver. Although the story is patently implausible, the film would not work unless it looked as if

Schwarzenegger really was piloting a Harrier jet, blowing up a bridge and jumping off skyscrapers.

"We pushed the realism way beyond anything we thought we could do," Bruno says.

True Lies director Jim Cameron insisted on a single-take shot in which Schwarzenegger's Harry Tasker climbs into a Harrier jet (which can take off vertically) and takes flight. There would be no room for a quick cut to splice in a real jet and pilot.

"It had to be absolutely seamless so you don't say, 'oh, that's fake.' And you're taken out of the movie," Bruno says.

So Bruno's crews built a full-sized jet mockup, rigged by cables to a giant crane. Schwarzenegger climbs in, and the crane lifts the plane by the cables into the air.

Special effects house digital domain then made sure all signs of the cables were removed electronically. Bruno separately filmed swirling dust, news-

papers and jet engine exhaust and heat flumes. Up to 30 layers of such effects, including swirling turbine engines, were added to the original image.

All of a sudden, Schwarzenegger's a pilot. Says Bruno: "We worked on that for seven months."

In another scene, a real pilot and a real Harrier jet were filmed flying into Miami. Technicians isolated the helmet-clad pilot, and with the high-tech equivalent of an ejection seat, discharged him from the plane. A Schwarzenegger stunt double, in T-shirt and without helmet, was put in the pilot's place.

The Mask features a high-tech blend of animation, live action and special effects. When character Stanley Ipkiss dons a wooden mask, he is transformed into a half-man, half-cartoon whirling dervish. Because the movie's makers had a limited budget, they were forced

to make a little go a long way — and make their effects stand out.

"They were never meant to be hidden," said Scott Squires, nominated with *The Mask* visual effects team.

Many of the people who worked on *The Mask* were

coming off *Jurassic Park*. In the latter film, they were trying to make the fanciful — modern-day dinosaurs — look real. The equation was reversed in *The Mask*: here the goal was to make the real — actor Jim Carrey — look fanciful.

THOUGHTS FOR THIS WEEK

It is awfully important to know what is and what is not your business — Gertrude Stein, American author (1874-1946).

There are no warlike peoples — just warlike leaders — Ralph J. Bunche, American diplomat (1904-1971).

What is everybody's business is nobody's business — except the journalist's — Joseph Pulitzer, Hungarian-born American newspaper publisher (1847-1911).

It is good to be without vices, but it is not good to be without temptation — Walter Bagehot, English editor and economist (1826-1877).

To know a little less and to understand a little more: That, it seems to me, is our greatest need — James Ramsey Ullman, American author (1907-1971).

(Continued from page B)

plants are also to be set up with the help of the Chinese, American and Hong Kong entrepreneurs in the Sindh Province where huge coal reserves have been found. The Sindh Government plans to set up a 1,320 megawatt coal-based power plant in Thar, a 100 megawatt plant in Thatta and a 120 megawatt plant in Lakhr.

The State-controlled Oil and Gas Development Corporation (OGDC) is currently initiating major development projects at the condensate field at Dhodak and the Qadirpur gas field in the Baluchistan province. It is also participating in the development of the Kandawari gas field under joint venture participation. The Qadirpur and Kandawari gas fields are expected to be brought on production line during the year 1995-96, adding about 500 million cubic feet (MMOFC) of gas to the national production. The OGDC is striving to add significant reserves of oil and gas to reduce the country's dependence on imported oil.



Sardar Farooq Ahmed Khan Laghari, President of Pakistan



Mohiurraza Benazir Bhutto, Prime Minister of Pakistan

For this, its main target for the Eighth Five Year Plan (1993-94 to 1997-98) will be the drilling of 70 exploratory wells in the country.

Meanwhile, work on the hydrocracker refinery project in Karachi, costing \$500 million, will begin shortly. It will be completed in three years, installing a 1.65 million tonnes per year refinery. It is designed to process heavy fuel oil available from local

refineries in Pakistan and upgrade it into light and middle distillates, thereby reducing the country's imports of these highly priced products and save about \$80 to \$100 million per year in foreign exchange. It will be a joint venture between the Crescent Petroleum Company of Sharjah and the State Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Corporation of Pakistan. The Crescent com-

pany also has an exclusive mandate from the governments of Qatar and Pakistan to sponsor and develop a highly strategic regional project involving Qatar, the northern UAE, and Pakistan. Called the Gulf-South Asia Gas Project, it concerns the sale and purchase of gas and its transmission through a large diameter (mostly subsea) pipeline connecting Qatar's giant north field, through Dubai

and northern UAE to Pakistan with an estimated overall cost of some \$3 billion.

According to secretary, Board of Investment (BOI) Syed Mohibullah Shah Pakistan is expected to receive \$2 of \$3 billion direct foreign investment by the end of the current fiscal year. Direct foreign investment amounting to \$1.2 billion had already been received between July and December 1994. Only three projects signed between Hyundai and Pakistan State Oil, Hyundai and Saigol, and Gul Ahmad and Daewoo would ensure direct foreign investments in Pakistan to the tune of \$1 billion.

In the coming years, investment would start pouring in fast in the energy, telecommunications, chemicals, and infrastructure sectors.

There is commitment of over \$15 billion of foreign investment in addition to the British investment of £1 billion in different sectors within a short span of one year. The BOI has already announced an attractive package of concessions for setting up of electronics, chemicals and palm oil industries

in the country. The board has also decided to start a programme called investor/developer/promoters (IDP) in the 12 industrial zones that have already been announced. The Government will allow foreign and local companies under this programme to develop these industrial zones themselves.

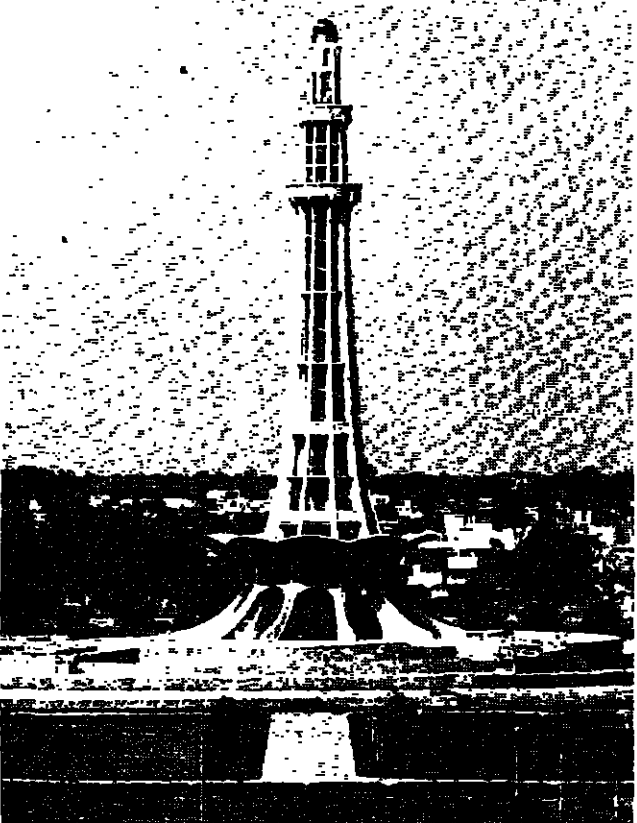
Another project recently approved is the Saindak Project in Baluchistan province which on completion next year will deliver 16,000 tonnes of blister copper annually, 1.5 tonnes of gold and 2.76 tonnes of silver. Side by side, the government has also approved the setting up of a national task force for the development of minerals.

The programme of economic liberalisation and investment friendly climate in Pakistan, is not only consensus backed but also indicative of complete consistency during the past six years. Pakistan, which is locationally well-placed, offers easy access to foreign investors of two important regional markets. An establishment market of the Gulf region and an emerging market of Central Asia, which have immense potentials.

Pakistan's economy along with its financial sector is undergoing a momentous change. The changes and reforms in its macro-economic policies have created unprecedented opportunities for its

economy which in turn would open the world of capital markets for Pakistan enterprises. With the quick development of infrastructure projects holding the key to the acceleration of economic activity, their early implementation remains high on the economic policy agenda of the Government. The National Development Finance Corporation (NDFC) has been efficiently administering the private sector energy development fund which has a pool of resources amounting to \$578 million.

An additional funding of \$370 million has been recently arranged and made part of the energy fund.



Minar-e-Pakistan, Lahore, built at the place where Pakistan resolution was passed in 1940.



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further progress & prosperity

on the occasion of

PAKISTAN NATIONAL DAY



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- On the auspicious occasion of Pakistan Day, the Export Promotion Bureau of Pakistan wishes

His Majesty King Hussein, Crown Prince Hassan

and the brotherly people of Jordan, continued prosperity.

- Export Promotion Bureau of Pakistan is proud of the long association to promote Jordan-Pakistan bilateral trade.

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Happy Pakistani National Day

Best wishes & prosperous years

to come to the

Pakistani People & Government

on the occasion of

Pakistani National Day



ALMADINA INFORMATION

ON THE OCCASION OF

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"Best wishes to the Embassy of Pakistan, Amman, on the auspicious occasion of the National Day

We wish the Pakistani community in Jordan health and prosperity during the years to come."

Zakaria Jabri and family

Jumping the lights

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

Have you noticed that all of a sudden, everyone has become an expert on traffic issues. It's just like the blind leading the blind.

Tearing down all the stop signs in Amman was the best suggestion all week. It would not make that much of a difference anyway, really! Because nobody obeys the traffic regulations for driving into and around roundabouts. Look what has become of them.

Closing all the U-turns all over Amman and only allowing vehicles to turn at traffic lights is another very good idea. This might appear somewhat extreme, and is certain to provoke a trail of hate mail, but when one of the large buses in Amman blocks off three lanes of traffic on Mecca Street while attempting to do a U-turn, it all ends right there! Of course there is an economic argument against being so extreme and I think that a lot of business owners would agree. Surely you need not drive for one kilometre to turn at the traffic light when you could use the U-turn a hundred feet away?

But why not just have more traffic lights installed. They will certainly help to keep the speed of traffic in check. Or if this is not your sort of ball game, why not keep the U-turns, but for God's sake, do not make them 50 metres wide. Any U-turn need not accommodate more than one car at a time so it need only be so wide, allowing for access by emergency vehicles of course. Most people I think are familiar with the U-turn on Al-Medina Al-Munawwara Street opposite Chen's Chinese Restaurant. Here, you get four lanes of traffic doing the U-turn. Who is to blame for all this mess?

Other known causes of accidents are reckless driving and overtaking on turns and while going uphill. Under the heading reckless drivers, you can enter taxi and bus drivers and kids driving around in daddy's Mercedes Benz. The kids are just spoilt and are a by-product of our society but the bus and taxi drivers have to make a living somehow, don't they? But this is by no means and under no circumstances an acceptable excuse for driving like maniacs while ignoring all other traffic, pedestrians and vehicles included. But these are not the only reckless drivers.

Truck drivers in Jordan appear to be truly, dumb, deaf and blind; they ignore all other traffic, presumably because they think they are untouchable in their large vehicles, and they manoeuvre in them just as

they would a motorcycle. One more thing about these trucks. They seem to be under the impression that they can drive at high speeds through residential areas, if that is the shortest route, to going on roads that their trucks would not be able to cope with. How many people you know have been stuck behind a truck whose shameless driver decided to get on a steeply inclined road? Under such circumstances, even the most patient of drivers would be tempted to overtake and take his chances with the oncoming traffic.

So far, the problem seems to be speed, doesn't it? You, whoever you are, take the shortest route through the U-turn, through the residential area, up the steep road, through the red light and you honk your horn when the lights go green at the traffic lights.

For some strange reason, we, Jordanians and all, always seem to be in a hurry when we are on the road. Why? And why has this "rushing" led us to ignore the priorities, rights, needs and lives of other drivers on our roads? Why have we, as a people, become selfish and careless?

Are the reasons economic, political, social, forces of habit, our inability to handle technology... or what?

So many of us call for the betterment of human lives, for more things to be done by the municipalities and for these to be done properly when they are done. But, and in return, don't we as citizens owe our cities and fellow residents far more than we are presently giving?

But how do we implement change? That's a bagatelle. We turn our attention to the individual. All that is needed is to get one million individuals to change their habits and maybe show a little bit more love, care, sympathy and loyalty for this country. We then move on to improve the quality of the cultural and civic lives of our cities. We involve citizens in the problems of their environment where the raw materials become the citizens and their knowledge, creativity and initiative. We have amongst us numerous wealthy individuals so why don't we convince them to use a portion of their wealth to build public parks, museums or libraries!

We, and only we, can make our cities equitable, where wealth and justice are fairly distributed, ecological, which give to the environment as they take out, open, which embrace new ideas, and beautiful, where art, architecture and landscape move the spirit.

ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

1. A marriage union between one of royal or noble rank and one of lower rank in which the wife does not acquire the husband's rank and the offspring do not inherit the titles and possessions of the father.
2. The Verrazano-Narrows bridge. Opened in 1964.
3. Vienna, in 1923. The organisation's centre is in Paris.
4. From the Greek legend of the mortal Arachne who challenged the gods to surpass her at weaving. She failed and was turned into a spider by Minerva.
5. Prokofiev.
6. Ptolemy I.

7. A district, parish, church, or deanery of the Church of England which lies under the jurisdiction of the Crown and not of the bishop of the diocese in which it is situated. Included are the Chapel Royal, St. James' Palace, London, and St. George's Chapel in Windsor Castle.

PUZZLES

MAKING HISTORY

HE BECAME THE FIRST AMERICAN ASTRONAUT.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

WHEN IN ROME ...

By Norma Steinberg

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By James Barrie

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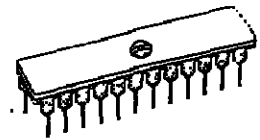
SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE

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The magic of Clipart

By Jean-Claude Elias

chip talk



Our world is becoming more visual than ever. Sound alone is just not enough anymore. What better proof of that than television? A news bulletin without camera coverage of the events would seem dull and unappealing, even if the newscaster is well-dressed and attractive.

Pop singers used to reach fame (and fortune) by having their music aired on the radio. That is until the mid-eighties. By then, a song, even a good one, wouldn't stand a chance to reach the top of the charts without being packaged in a video-clip.

Software designers naturally have well-understood that. Currently most of the programmes that run under Microsoft Windows system come with a collection of ready-made drawings or illustrations called Clipart. MS-Word, Harvard Graphics, MS-Publisher and Corel Draw, to name only a few, all are supplied with a set of such graphics.

Clipart comes as a set of files, each containing a drawing. This can be a hand drawing, a scanned image, a logotype or even a photograph. One can integrate any such Clipart in any Windows programme for illustration purpose. To all those who are not particularly graphic artists Clipart is a blessing, a dream come true. Even to those who can draw, it is a precious timesaver.

PC users can also purchase additional, separate Clipart software. New collections are regularly being released. Corel for instance are marketing a magnificent compilation of images featuring famous cars, all captured in high resolution and true-to-life colours.

The beauty of Clipart is the possibility one has to manipulate and modify the original file. Once pasted in an application, the drawing can be cropped, resized, moved and so forth. Often, but not always, the user can also change the colours and apply special visual effects.

Being able to add ready-made graphics to a text, a report or a spreadsheet greatly enhances the final product whether it will remain on the screen or it will be printed. What better impact than sending a letter to your basketball team sponsor, illustrated with a Michael Jordan's clone?

As it usually goes with software products, Clipart collections are not all of the same standard. The resolution, the artistic quality varies from one publisher to another. However, Microsoft, Corel and Software Publishing Corporation (the owners of Harvard Graphics) have a sound reputation for supplying high quality work.

When shopping for additional sets of Clipart, one should look for collection that are well-categorised. Indeed, a given Clipart set may comprise hundreds or even thousands of drawings-files. Without proper classification, browsing through them all to find a suitable drawing may be tedious and extremely time-consuming. The best collections come not only with a practical classification and table of contents but also with a printout of all available files, making the selection process much faster and easier.

Finally, for reliability and in order to save hard disk space, acquiring Clipart on CD-ROM is becoming more and more frequent, provided of course, your PC is already fitted with a CD-ROM drive.

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, March 23

7:30 Road To Avonlea

Felix And Blackie

Felix's humorous attempt at making money turns tragic as his horse, Blackie, dies in an accident caused by his master.

8:30 Documentary — The Blue Revolution

9:10 E.N.G.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Rainbow

Starring: Andrea McDardle & Done Murray

The movie is a true story of the struggle of a mother who never stops battling for her daughter to become a Hollywood star.

12:00 The Exile

Friday, March 24

7:30 Street Hawk

8:30 Desmond's

8:50 You Bet Your Life

9:10 The Law and Harry McGraw

10:00 News In English

10:20 Documentary — Timewatch

Curse Of The Killer Bug

"Killer bug ate my face," "flesh eater on the move," "dither and you die." These were the newspaper headlines that surrounded the outbreak of Streptococcus a virus in 1994. Timewatch examines the bizarre events which led to this killer bug panic.

Saturday, March 25

7:30 Road To Avonlea

Aunt Janet Rebels

Janet King proves outstanding strength and courage in her struggle to secure women's rights in Avonlea.

8:30 The Nanny

9:10 The Cape Rebel

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Reno & The Doc

Starring: Kenneth Walsh & Henry Ramer

The movie tells the story of two middle-aged men brought together by mental telepathy. When Reno, a solitary mountain man, is induced by Doc to enter the pro-ski tour, his surprising success leads him to a great romance.

12:00 Concerto I "Cello"

By Saint Saen Bartok

Hosted by Dudley Moore

Sunday, March 26

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:30 Almost Home

9:00 The Album Show

9:30 Heartbeat

Presented by Maha Addassi

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — The Liars Club

Starring: Wil Wheaton & Brian Krause

12:00 The Hidden Room

Monday, March 27

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:30 Documentary — Diving In The Red Sea

9:10 South Beach

An attempt to nail down a ring of racketeer pirates specialised in robbing luxurious yachts.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Scarlet And Black

Deaths occur but not before Julien has made a surprising discovery about the women he loved.

11:20 Feature Film — Judgement Day

Starring: Robert Blake & Beverly D'Angelo

Tuesday, March 28

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:30 Home Improvement

9:10 Documentary — The Nature Of Things

Hooked In Oil

The programme looks at the importance of oil in our daily life — values and vices.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Seaforth

Spanning 50 years and 3 generations, Seaforth is a classic drama: an epic love story, a family saga and a rags-to-riches story full of life, intense passion, raw ambition and ruthless opportunism. While robbing a house, Bob is caught by a young woman. He saves her life and wins her heart.

Wednesday, March 29

7:30 The Bold And The Beautiful

8:30 Documentary — The Marvellous Machine

The Eye

9:10 Berlin Break

Willy and Valentin ride the edge in their attempt to help a woman search for her lost child but they suddenly move back when the truth soon uncovers.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Prism

10:40 Snowy River

11:10 Keeping Up Appearances

Urgent action needed to save the environment

By P. V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Sounding alarm bells over environmental damage in the Middle East, the World Bank is calling for urgent action to address the problem, which, the World Bank says, will grow into unmanageable proportions if it is not checked now through an all-embracing strategy.

Real losses resulting from environmental neglect run into billions of dollars every year while governments spend an equal, if not a higher, amount of funds to address the impact rather than the cause, says the World Bank in a document entitled "Forging a Partnership for Environmental Action."

While the situation is indeed alarming, governments and people in the region could rectify it, the bank says, outlining a strategy to handle the problem.

In simplified terms, the bank is saying that governments could reap a double-pronged benefit if they redirect their efforts towards removing the root causes of environmental damages. On the one hand, such action checks the recurrence of the problem while on the other it eliminates the need to address its impact.

The proposals involve millions of dollars of expenditure at a regional level, but, says the World Bank, the proposed projects and programmes of action pay for themselves in the medium-term.

The World Bank is offering to "provide, at the request of governments, investment funds and policy advice by mobilising resources in cooperation with other donors" and to play "an active role in existing regional programmes."

The bank is highly critical of almost every policy followed by the region's governments that has an impact on the environment and it explicitly accuses the governments of relative inaction, which, it warns, will cost the region far higher than it would if action was adopted today.

Environmental protection is a relatively new idea to the Middle East and North Africa, where most governments and people are "preoccupied with basic issues of development to give any serious thought to the problems posed by environmental damage."

The World Bank notes that the countries of the Middle East and North Africa have made impressive progress the last three decades in terms of economic growth, health standards and education. But, it says, "this progress is threatened by the environmental damage that has accompanied it."

"Scarce water, degraded arable land, polluted air and water, and inadequate sanitation threaten the region's capacity to maintain economic growth and absorb mushrooming populations, and impose enormous economic and human costs through disease and early death," it points out.

While the region is endowed with large deposits of oil and gas, only six per cent of the land is arable and the available supply of



The World Bank acknowledges that Jordan has moved to protect its environment but says the Kingdom needs to do more

'Zarqa basin among most polluted areas'

THE WORLD BANK, in "an environment strategy towards sustainable development in the Middle East and North Africa," identifies the Amman-Zarqa area and the Zarqa basin as one of the "industrial pollution hotspots" and one of the "water quality hotspots" in the region.

"In the Zarqa basin, air pollution results from a refinery and a thermal power station," it says. "High levels of sulphur dioxide, hydrogen sulphide, carbon monoxide, particulates, and nitrous oxides are observed in this region."

Noting that 90 per cent of Jordan's industries are lo-

cated in the Zarqa basin, the bank says that "most of the area's industrial and municipal effluents drain into the King Talal reservoir—the main source of irrigation water for the Jordan Valley and of drinking water of Amman."

"The reservoir receives partially treated sewage, effluents from the petroleum refinery, and the slaughterhouse, and other industries in the area."

Other references to Jordan in the World Bank document include:

— The Kingdom is among 10 countries in the Middle East and North

Africa region known to be consuming more than 100 per cent of their renewable water resources and among nine countries which have problems of poor water quality.

— Jordan is rationalising energy prices and restoring the financial viability of its energy sector by commercialising power enterprise (a reference to the Jordan Electricity Authority, which is in the process of being turned into a full-fledged commercial entity under the Companies Law).

The following observations were also made by the World Bank in Jordan's re-

cord of implementing the various suggestions made by the bank towards protecting the environment. It said that Jordan:

— needs to strengthen the capacity of its staff dealing with environmental issues, establish/strengthen the legal framework, establish monitoring systems and enforce licensing requirements;

— has held consultations on environmental issues with affected parties, local non-governmental organisations and the media;

— has to publish information on water quality, hazardous emissions and

waste; — has established measures to improve water allocation and adopted speeding up of proven technologies for efficient use of water as well as increased prices and reduced subsidies for water;

— is in the process of clarifying and securing land property rights and has removed impediments to market pricing for fertilisers; is regulating the protection of fragile lands, crucial ecosystems, and cultural heritage.

— needs to adopt proven technologies to the efficient use of energy, accelerate

substitution to natural gas, begin conversion to low-sulphur fuel oils and promote conversion to unleaded gasoline and has removed energy subsidies;

— needs to remove impediments in the way of adopting clean industrial and transport technology (import restrictions, subsidies), and internalise the social cost of pollution.

— has prioritised environmental problems and prepared least-cost mitigation plans.

The World Bank says the issue of closing down highly polluting, non-viable public enterprises is not applicable to Jordan.

fresh water is limited, a fact which appears to be overlooked since most countries are using unreplaceable sources of water at an alarmingly high rate, says the bank.

Governments have invested billions of dollars in industries and also support the ventures by heavy subsidies for water, energy, agrochemicals, food staples and public services.

But this development strategy "ignored conservation and efficient resources allocation," says the World Bank.

The region's agricultural lands have suffered severely from inappropriate farming methods, misuse of water, overgrazing, improper conversion of crops and overuse of agrochemicals.

In the industrial domain, state-owned or state subsidised enterprises "had little ability or incentive to adopt cleaner technolo-

gies," and "protective trade regimes, budget constraints and the lack of environmental regulations have permitted the survival of old, highly-polluting industries," says the World Bank.

"Urban pollution threatens public health in the region... (and) obsolete vehicle engine technology and low fuel efficiency have exacerbated urban air pollution," it says.

"Historically high" energy subsidies offered by the governments of the region provide little incentive for energy conservation and improving efficiency, the World Bank says.

The bank finds that "energy consumption per unit of output is almost twice that of other regions with comparable income levels, such as Latin America and the Caribbean."

"Improving environmental management requires in-

corporating these social and economic costs into the overall development strategy — by implementing policies and programmes that integrate economic growth, poverty reduction, and environmental sustainability," it says. "Reform now will be far less expensive than the cost of inaction."

Estimates, described by the World Bank as conservative, put the "real cost of environmental neglect" at \$12 billion to \$14 billion a year in disease treatment, natural resources degradation, health impairment and impact on tourism. The estimate does not include invisible losses such as damaged ecosystems, loss of biodiversity and long-term effects of toxic pollution.

The three-part strategy by the World Bank involves strengthening environmental institutions and public participation, improvement

of management of scarce natural resources, and checking emerging pollution problems. The strategy starts with "well-focused assistance to improve managerial and technical capacity and to strengthen the monitoring and enforcement of environmental quality standards." Parallel to such moves comes raising public awareness of the environmental risks by releasing information on water quality, hazardous emissions and wastes and the conservation of nature.

Use of scarce natural resources could be made efficient if users are forced to pay a higher price. This would mean raising water and energy prices as well as the cost of agrochemicals by removing subsidies as well as replacing improper technologies with proven ones suited to the environment and specific features of the land.

The World Bank impli-

cily acknowledges that these moves could be highly unpopular, but affirms that there could be no escape from them if the objective is to address the environmental problem.

"Clean" industries and technologies are the answer to pre-empt environmental problems as governments move to address existing damage. The World Bank that governments should encourage private investment in clean industry by removing tariff and non-tariff barriers to the adoption of clean-process technology.

Governments should also apply "the polluter-pays" approach so that enterprises pay the cost for pollution and establish licensing procedures to ensure anti-pollution measures are taken.

Where pollution is endangering human health, governments should improve the quality of water

and sanitation services by enhancing the operation and maintenance of existing facilities, rehabilitating non-operational treatment plants, and encouraging investment in appropriate low-cost technologies.

After identifying areas where the situation is critical, governments should develop "least-cost" mitigation plans to form the basis of compliance agreements with firms causing pollution on phased reduction of emissions.

Public and private sectors enterprises should bear the cost of clean-up, says the bank, adding that "highly polluting" public enterprises that are not financially viable and cannot be restructured should be shut down.

In the area of air pollution from transport and energy sources, governments should phase out leaded gasoline and high-

sulphur fuels, establishing emission standards for vehicles and accelerating natural gas developments.

The World Bank estimates that it would cost about \$60 billion to \$80 billion over the next 10 years to bring about these changes. That amount equals about 1.5 per cent of the gross domestic product of the region's countries.

On the other end of the scale, major benefits from these investments include health improvement resulting from cleaner and safer water and sanitation, increased agricultural productivity and less air pollution.

The World Bank suggests that the funds to implement the statement should be raised from domestic sources, "though not necessarily from the public budget."

To the extent possible, costs should be transferred from governments to resource users and polluters, and cost-recovery mechanisms put in place to finance new investments," it says.

The bank acknowledges that there cannot be a uniform pattern of action for all countries in the region since many factors change from country to country. "Each country will have to trace its own path based on its particular problems, constraints and comparative advantages," it says.

Among the suggested means to finance the cost of addressing environmental problems are:

— Raising electricity and water prices so that they reflect the full cost of supply. It is implicit here that the public pays for the actual cost, whether in the form of subsidies channelled by the government from taxes and other charges or in the form of higher prices. The World Bank notes that the region spends about \$25 billion every year on energy subsidies and the annual costs of water supply investments not currently recovered are about \$12 billion.

— Introducing pollution charges to discourage pollution and raise revenues.

The World Bank estimates that if the region could bring charges comparable to Poland's by the year 2005, it would raise \$1.7 billion per year.

— Introducing efficient pricing to recover the costs involved in solid-waste management, waste-water treatment and sanitation.

— Levying a tax on harmful additives to gasoline.

"All these measures play a dual role: They raise funds for new investments and they provide incentives for more efficient resource use," says the bank.

In the context of the private sector, the bank suggests that private firms be encouraged to finance environmental investments and to manage water and waste-water treatment plants, sanitary landfills and special industries waste facilities that operate on a user-charger basis.

It also points out that foreign private investment and joint ventures can expand natural gas supply, upgrade domestic automobile and truck technology, and introduce clean industrial and energy technology.

Arab support falls short

(Continued from page 1)

relatively better than that of the near past, the prospects of the Arab situation seem full of frustration. It is a result of the dominant sentiments of resignation and submission that the present status impose on us," he added. Mr. Kabarti seconded the ill made by United Arab Emirates' Rashid Al Nuaimi in Arab reconciliation, tolerance and openness to achieve better future for generations to come.

Bahrain's foreign minister, Sheikh Mohammad Bin Ibrahim Al Khalifa, suggested the six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council ready decided to back extension of the NPT at a meeting Tuesday on the sidelines of the conference.

"We support this treaty," Al Khalifa said. "We believe it is good."

Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait has also split the Arab countries. While calls for Arab reconciliation were made at the conference, any

ance of strong backing for

Iraq had disappeared before the session.

Last week, under pressure from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, the Sudanese withdrew a proposal to join Iraq's fight for lifting U.N. sanctions. The wealthy Gulf countries threatened to withdraw funding from the league, which already has financial problems.

Iraq urged the Arab League to condemn the United States for its insistence to keep sanctions on Baghdad unchanged.

"The Arab League is called upon today to expose the suspicious American role... in imposing sanctions on Iraq and persistence to continue

Iran has deployed chemicals

(Continued from page 1) mander in the region, Vice Admiral Scott Redd.

"It is a deployment that is far beyond any reasonable defence requirements that Iran has," said the Pentagon chief before his departure for the UAE.

Mr. Perry said he was to discuss with UAE officials

with them," the ruling Baath Party newspaper said, quoting a statement by Iraq's Foreign Ministry.

It said the statement was made on the league's anniversary.

"We are looking forward to the Arab League... to heal the rift in inter-Arab relations," the statement said.

Iraq accused the league on Tuesday of bias for supporting the extension of U.N. sanctions, saying it ignored the suffering of Iraqis. It also accused Secretary-General Abdul Meguid of colluding with Iraq's enemies to keep the sanctions in place.

"The attitude of the Arab League towards Iraq is astonishing and embarrassing," Al Thawra said in a separate commentary.

the potential threat.

"If Iran in any way uses those weapons to interfere with shipping then it becomes not just a matter of the UAE, but it becomes a regional and indeed a world problem," he said.

In Dubai, the defence ministers of the UAE and Iran held talks Tuesday.

Palestinian police arrest suspects

(Continued from page 1)

to the reports of the aborted attack, saying militants were hurting their Palestinian brethren economically by prompting a new Israeli closure of Gaza.

Some 200 Palestinian farmers drove their tractors to the main crossing into Israel and emptied boxes of tomatoes and potatoes in protest at the closure of the strip.

Palestinian Finance Minister Mohammad Zahdi Al Nashashibi went to the Erez crossing point to back the protest and threatened to ban imports of Israeli agricultural produce in retaliation.

"If the Israelis continue we will prevent their vegetables coming in," he told reporters.

"Closure of the border goes against the economic accords stipulating free exchange of goods," signed by Israel and the Palestinians last year, he said.

Arafat adviser Ahmad Tibi said Wednesday that the Palestinian self-rule government was making a serious effort to rein in the militants.

"Nobody can have 100 per cent success in preventing terrorism," Mr. Tibi told the Associated Press. "The Palestinian Authority is doing its utmost to prevent the violence."

Dr. Tibi said Hamas was timing its attacks to sabotage PLO achievements at the negotiating table and undermine Mr. Arafat's standing.

"I'm sure one of the purposes is to prevent the Palestinian Authority from getting power in its hands," Dr. Tibi said.

The rigged truck was discovered only a day after men suspected to be Hamas activists shot and killed two Jewish settlers in a roadside ambush in the West Bank town of Hebron.

In response to the shooting, Jewish settler leaders on Wednesday called for an insurrection aimed at bringing down the Rabin government.

"I'm talking about a legitimate civil insurrection," Zvi Katzover, "mayor" of the Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba just outside Hebron, told Israeli army radio.

"In every democratic society, it is permissible to go out

and demonstrate and block roadways... and prevent the prime minister from entering his house and office."

Settlers were also incensed by the remarks of a dovish cabinet minister Yossi Sarid, who said 450 Jews living among 110,000 Palestinians in Hebron should be evacuated as quickly as possible.

The moment the government starts evacuating Jews from Hebron, we will come armed," another settler leader, Nissan Shlomiansky, told AP.

Mr. Shlomiansky, head of operation in the settlers' council, said protesters would not use violence against Israeli soldiers, but that "the Jews will come and evacuate the Arabs."

Hebron's mayor urged Mr. Rabin to lift a round-the-clock curfew, calling it a "campaign of cruelty" against the city's residents.

The army said it imposed the curfew on Monday to protect Palestinians from revenge attacks for the killing of two Jewish settlers Sunday night.

King, Queen arrive in Paris

(Continued from page 1)

world. We need to begin to pick up as rapidly as possible and bring about the change in the quality of life of people in the era of peace."

The King said he and Mr. Gore addressed the issue in a "very, very frank and very open" way. "They realise, as we do, there is a need to do everything possible." He said it was "a valid question" whether Jordan was satisfied with U.S. assistance.

Mr. Gore did not promise

that aid to Jordan would match that of Israel and Egypt, but said, "if Jordan is capable of taking the bold, courageous and dramatic step that it took to further the cause of peace in the Middle East, I can assure you that we are capable of keeping our word."

While in Washington, the King will also meet with Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Defence Secretary William Perry and Commerce Secretary Ron Brown as well as American Jewish leaders.

Syria, Israel take a break

(Continued from page 1)

Al Thawra accused Israel of trying to prolong previous negotiations but said the Jewish state would not be able to do so at the current session because the mechanism agreed with Mr. Christopher linked discussions of further peace steps with the outcome of the ambassadorial talks.

Officials said earlier the success of the ambassadorial talks would pave the way for talks at a higher level involv-

ing the army chiefs of staff of Syria and Israel.

They said a December session in which the Syrian and Israeli chiefs of staff took part had failed because of tough Israeli demands, including one for preservation of Israeli observation posts at the Golan.

Al Thawra said the current session was very important "because its outcome will decide the fate of the peace process."

U.S. January trade gap soars on record imports

The United States fought hard in 1993 and 1994 to have the trade and labour link — covering the claimed advantage developing countries have in selling goods made with cheap labour — included on the WTO agenda.

efficiency in key infrastruc-
tural sectors," Finance Minister
Singh said.

Times
7171

The United States' single largest trading partner, declined to \$1.35 billion in January from \$1.57 billion in December.

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26

YOU IDIOT! YOU DON'T DODGE ME, I DODGE YOU!

AL SMITH

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1033-1036.

business daily beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Jordan earns JD 443 million from tourism last year, sees JD 553m for 1995

★ JORDAN EARNED a record JD 443 million (about \$630 million) from tourism last year. Sources at the Ministry of Tourism said the previous record was JD 314 registered in 1989. The sources expect income from tourism to increase by 25 per cent to JD 553 million in 1995. The total number of tourists who visited Jordan last year was approximately 630,000 of whom 405,000 were Arab, 191,000 from Europe, 70,000 from the U.S. and 30,000 from other countries (AL Aswaj).

★ A DELEGATION from the Civil Aviation Authority initiated an accord with the authorities in South Africa. Under the agreement, Royal Jordanian will be able to fly to South Africa twice a week (Al Dustour).

★ THE BOARD of directors of the National Engineering Industries Company (NEIC) is recommending to the general assembly merging the company with the National Multi-Industries Company (NMIC) and raising the capital of the new company by JD 3.75 million to JD 30 million. The board of the directors of the NMIC is also recommending the merger to its general assembly (Al Aswaj).

★ THE BANK of Jordan, posted about JD 6 million in pre-tax profit last year. The bank's total assets amounted to JD 405.1 million at the end of 1994 compared to JD 298.2 million at the end of 1993. Credits climbed from JD 138.8 million in 1993 to JD 186 million in 1994 while the rise in total deposits was from JD 225.6 million to JD 324.6 million last year (Al Aswaj).

★ THE RAFIA Industrial Company had JD 2,716,528 of sales last year and, as a result, succeeded in achieving a JD 299,594 profit. The board of directors is recommending to the general assembly the distribution of dividends at a rate of 20 per cent. The company, which makes plastic weaving bags made of polypropylene in different sizes, has a total of JD 3,456,362 in assets (Al Aswaj).

★ THE BOARD of directors of the Jordan Worsteds Mills Company is recommending to the general assembly the distribution of dividends at 22 per cent and allocating 20 per cent of the profit to the voluntary reserve in addition to the 10 per cent obligatory reserve (Al Aswaj).

★ THE ARAB Paper Converting and Trading Company liked net profit from JD 27,000 in 1993 to JD 378,000 last year. The company's sales grew from JD 1.64 million in 1993 to JD 2.77 million in 1994 with exports jumping from JD 802,000 to about JD 1.45 million. Local sales were also up by 60 per cent with a 14-fold rise in net profit, the board of directors is recommending a 10 per cent dividend distribution.

★ THE JORDAN GULF Real Estate Investment Company seeks to expand its base of operations by entering the tourism and hotel sector through merging with another company. According to the 1994 annual report, the company is now in a good financial situation having a fully-paid capital of JD 4.5 million. It owns a 12,000-square-metre building in Aqaba and 139 dunums of land on the airport highway placed at JD 3.75 million. The company made a JD 28,748 profit last year. At the end of 1993, it had an accumulated loss of JD 1.95 million which shrunk the capital from JD 3 million to JD 1.05 million (Al Aswaj).

New bank for exports likely to start late '95

By Sulaiman Al Khalidi
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan's Central Bank has granted its first licence since the late 1970s to a specialist bank to service a rapidly growing export finance market, its founders said Wednesday.

Jordan Export and Finance Bank, with a capital of 20 million dinars (\$29 million), is expected to start operating at the end of 1995, said Ziyad Fariz, head of the founding committee.

Dr. Fariz told Reuters it would be an "exporters bank that will be specialising directly and indirectly in providing financial packages to meet exporters' short and long-term needs."

The bank will raise 50 per cent of its capital in a private placement with over 100 in-

dustrial shareholders. The public will be offered 30 per cent and 20 per cent will go, under a central bank requirement, to state-owned investment bodies.

Major shareholders include Jordan's pharmaceutical holding company Hikma Investments, the industrial Nuqul Group, Jordan's phosphates and potash industry, leading insurance companies and members of Jordan's Trade Association.

Ali Al Husry, a co-founder from Hikma Investments, said founders were considering offering foreign investors a share.

The Central Bank obliges the bank, under an initial licence approved last month, to have a minimum of 50 per cent of its business in export-related activity.

Founders say the bank will

meet the need for long-term financing for export firms. Jordan's industrial bank provides the larger part at present.

Dr. Fariz said the bank will provide non-traditional financing for industrialists to expand, obtain credit abroad and domestically, and be a conduit for foreign aid designed to boost Jordanian ex-

ports. "There is high potential demand with a structural adjustment programme that has an export strategy and increased opportunities created with the regional peace developments," he said. Jordan has over 600 exporting companies. Exports rose 14.8 per cent in 1994 to 795 million dinars (\$1.15 bil-

lion) from 691 million dinars in 1993 (\$1.0 billion). There has been a growth in exports beyond the traditional phosphates and potash. Jordan has 21 other banks. The Central Bank has ordered them to raise their capital to 20 million dinars (\$29 million) by 1997 in what is seen as an effort to force mergers.



Workers at the state-owned Kuwait Oil Company, continue their strike for the fifth consecutive day after the government refused their demands for better working conditions and regular promotions (AFP photo)

Financial Jordan Times Markets in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Mar 21/95	Tokyo Close Mar 22/95
sterling Pound*	1.5840	1.5854**
Deutsche Mark	1.4173	1.4128
Japanese Yen	4.9940	4.9660**
European Currency Unit	1.2873	1.2895**

* 100 per cent
** European Opening for AMM and TRAT

European Currency Unit Rates: 22/3/1995

Currency	1 MTN	3 MTN	6 MTN	12 MTN
U.S. Dollar	6.81	6.80	6.81	6.80
Sterling Pound	6.06	6.31	6.81	7.43
Deutsche Mark	4.48	4.75	4.87	5.25
Swiss Franc	3.43	3.43	3.62	3.87
French Franc	7.87	7.87	7.85	7.37
Japanese Yen	7.06	7.03	7.03	1.87
European Currency Unit	6.75	6.75	6.67	7.06

Source: Bank for International Settlements, U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals: 22/3/1995

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	381.25	7.26	Silver	4.59	0.110

* 100 per cent

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin: 22/3/1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.5890	0.6910
Sterling Pound	1.0920	1.0973
Deutsche Mark	0.4872	0.4896
Swiss Franc	0.5821	0.5880
French Franc	0.1379	0.1383
Japanese Yen	0.7730	0.7769
Dutch Guilder	0.4349	0.4371
Swedish Krona	0.0465	0.0467
Italian Lira*	0.0465	0.0467
Belgian Franc	0.0465	0.0467

* Per 100

Other Currencies: 22/3/1995

Currency	Bid	Offer
Tahribal Dinar	1.8120	1.8240
Lebanese Lira*	0.041655	0.042715
Saudi Riyal	0.1834	0.1843
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.3100	0.3600
Qatari Riyal	0.1880	0.1895
Egyptian Pound	0.1900	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7810	1.7900
Greek Drachma*	0.2755	0.3290
Cypriot Pound	1.4615	0.5610

* Per 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.4030/40	Canadian dollar
	1.4118/28	Deutschemarks
	1.5830/40	Dutch guilders
	1.1730/40	Swiss francs
	29.14/18	Belgian francs
	4.9880/30	French francs
	1703.6/8.6	Italian lire
	88.85/95	Japanese yen
	7.2550/50	Swedish crowns
	6.2830/80	Norwegian crowns
	5.6395/45	Danish crowns

One sterling \$1.5848/58
One ounce of gold \$381.25/381.65

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 22/03/1995				
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK PTC	200	37385	187.500	186.850
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	1818	7896	4.330	4.350
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK / NEW	2952	12546	4.250	4.260
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	1000	1400	1.400	1.400
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	400	1046	2.720	2.640
THE HOUSING BANK	8613	51728	6.040	6.020
JORDAN KOWALT BANK	58128	171319	2.900	2.900
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	6950	24775	3.770	3.760
BUSINESS BANK	23400	77239	3.300	3.300
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1260	4599	3.640	3.650
BET ELAL SAVING INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	250	750	3.000	3.000
AMMAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	20850	22523	1.090	1.070
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	1100	1353	1.230	1.230
BANKS SECTOR	126562	414559	INDEX NUMBER: 157.61	CHANGE: -0.332
JORDAN INSURANCE	2000	6500	3.400	3.250
JERUSALEM INSURANCE	200	840	4.100	4.150
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	6550	16586	2.510	2.540
INSURANCE SECTOR	8840	24086	INDEX NUMBER: 234.73	CHANGE: -1.322
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	2083	3252	1.560	1.570
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	3000	4462	1.480	1.490
JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM	180	1233	6.850	6.850
JORDAN HIGH MINERAL	500	1400	2.900	2.800
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	50360	256820	5.100	5.090
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS / NEW	64	309	4.850	4.850
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	5450	15847	2.920	2.940
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	500	560	1.100	1.120
JORDAN PURES PETROLEUM / ALRAI	4250	4280	10.750	10.400
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONCORD HOTELS	26750	61410	2.260	2.290
ARAB ZETTER FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	3200	10753	3.380	3.350
JORDANIAN EXPATRIATES INVESTMENT HOLDING	8450	11648	1.380	1.380
SERVICES SECTOR	104787	411913	INDEX NUMBER: 125.71	CHANGE: -0.312
JORDAN TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	18	466	26.000	25.900
ATTACHEP CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	900	933	1.080	1.060
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	21416	64098	2.990	2.990
THE ARAB POTASH / NEW	600	2680	4.500	4.500
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	950	8744	9.150	9.230
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	554	1926	3.490	3.470
THE JORDAN WORSTED MILLS	1482	25764	7.400	7.400
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	2100	8750	4.020	4.000
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	3040	17903	5.950	5.890
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	500	1340	2.650	2.680
SPINNING & WEAVING	316	791	2.500	2.500
RAJIA INDUSTRIES	13850	37632	2.700	2.700
DAR AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	7550	56526	7.520	7.480
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	9450	8072	8.600	8.850
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	4650	29528	6.300	6.350
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	26200	16505	6.300	6.200
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	7550	10442	1.410	1.390
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRY	2000	6800	3.400	3.400
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	5850	11728	2.000	2.000
JORDAN KOCMOOL INDUSTRIES	7600	8218	1.050	1.100
JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCH/JIMCO	6600	4249	6.600	6.640
JORDAN KILN-ROCK INDUSTRIES	6100	7892	2.600	1.320
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	824	1332	2.080	2.100
KAMPER INVESTMENT	100	155	1.580	1.550
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	14900	52915	3.540	3.530
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	6570	13018	1.970	1.990
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	173100	477448	INDEX NUMBER: 118.22	CHANGE: +0.112
GRAND TOTAL	413289	1328006	INDEX NUMBER: 139.05	CHANGE: -0.202
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET: 88864				
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET: 107412				

Australia woos million-dollar business migrants

CANBERRA (R) — High-flying business people, particularly in Asia and Africa, are to be offered a chance to settle permanently in Australia by depositing at least 750,000 Australian dollars (\$550,000) in government securities for a minimum three years.

Immigration Minister Nick Bolks said Wednesday that in anticipation of a rush of inquiries the government was raising the number of business migrants it will allow to settle in Australia. The scheme comes into effect on April 3.

A scheme for business people to settle permanently by lodging several hundred thousand dollars in Australian banks was scrapped in 1991 when it was found that deposits were being moved back out of Australia and used again by other migrants. Under the new scheme, potential business migrants must deposit between 750,000 Australian dollars (\$550,000) and 2 Australian dollars million in designated government securities for a minimum three years. They must show they earned the funds from legitimate business or investment activities in their home countries, have business/management skills and good English and preferably be

aged around 30 to 45 years. If anyone decided not to take up the option of emigrating to Australia, the deposit would be returned with interest.

The scheme aims to attract business migrants from around the world. But an immigration department official, who asked not to be identified, said inquiries were expected in particular from business people in Hong Kong, South Africa and Kenya — main sources of business migrants in recent years.

Australia, striving to broaden its economy from rural and mineral exports, has already taken in 15,000 business people and their families as part of its immigration intake since 1981. They have entered under business immigrant programs under which candidates have to demonstrate their expertise under a points system, backed up by business equity.

Mr. Bolks said the number of business migrants to be allowed to stay permanently in Australia would rise by 500 to 2,100 in the fiscal year ending June 30, with further expansion in future years. Australia is set to take in a total of 76,000 immigrants in 1994/95 in all categories, up from 63,000 in 1993/94.

Sri Lanka seeks more jobs in M.E.

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — The government wants to get 300,000 people jobs in foreign countries this year in addition to the half a million already employed abroad, officials said Wednesday.

A government delegation is to hold talks with the Emir and prime minister of Kuwait, and the labour ministers of Lebanon, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates to promote job opportunities for Sri Lankans.

"We want to negotiate more opportunities for male workers and skilled and semi-skilled workers," said Labour Minister Mahinda Rajapakse, who is leading the delegation on a two-week

tour that begins Thursday. Seventy-five per cent of Sri Lankans working abroad are women, nearly all of them as house maids in the Middle East.

"We want to correct the imbalance and send more men abroad, especially in other professions such as the construction industry to avoid exploitation. We would like to capture 10 per cent of jobs for foreign workers in the Middle East," said Mr. Rajapakse.

Sri Lankans working abroad were the nation's largest money-earners last year, remitting 33 billion rupees (\$675 million).

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Lipton Championships

Graf, Wilander move into quarters

KEY BISCAINE (R) — The Steffi Graf of old and a renewed Mats Wilander dominated the stadium court action at the \$4.1 million Lipton Championships Tuesday.

Graf ripped apart Judith Wiesner of Austria, giving up just eight points in the first set and 11 in the second to her hapless four-round opponent in a 6-0 6-1 rout.

The 30-year-old Wilander appeared to turn back the clock to 1988, when the Swede was on top of the tennis world, as he cruised into the Lipton quarter-finals.

Wilander, who won three of four grand slam events in 1988, breezed past Jan Siemerink of the Netherlands for a 6-4 6-2 fourth round victory. Wilander, ranked 128, has lost just two sets in four rounds.

Australian Rachel McQuillan, at 88 the lowest ranked woman left in the field, scored her third upset of the week, and by far her biggest, when she took south ailing fourth-seeded American Lindsay Davenport 7-6 (7-3) 6-2.

Davenport has been suffering from a cold and lost form and energy after the first set. Gabriela Sabatini of



Mats Wilander of Sweden hits a double-handed backhand (AFP photo)

Argentina, the fifth seed, swept past 14th-seeded south African Amanda Coetzer 6-1 6-1 to join McQuillan in the

quarter-finals. Third-seeded Czech Jana Novotna, seventh seed Kimiko Date of Japan and eighth

seeded German Anke Huber also claimed quarter-final berths with straight sets victories.

Although Graf has won the only two tournaments she has played this year, she was plagued late in 1994 and at the start of 1995 by injuries. Last year her results were patchy, especially her first round exit at Wimbledon.

However on Tuesday, Graf, seeded second and ranked second in the world, simply pounded her opponent into oblivion with a barrage of wicked groundstrokes.

Wilander's form was near perfect against Siemerink as he stroked shots down the line for winners, claiming the first set 6-4.

Siemerink fought hard, serving up winners to hold on for 5-2, but Wilander served out the match 6-2 with a clean forehand pass down the line.

"When you suddenly feel like you can win again your perspective changes completely," Wilander said.

"I've got the momentum going for me for sure. I think what I'm using most is my experience but also my legs. I'm still able to get around the court pretty good and I don't feel like an old man."



Wimbledon's Marcus Gayle (right) and Manchester City's Keith Curie go for the ball during their

Premiership match at Selhurst Park. Wimbledon won 2-0 (AFP photo)

World's best riders for Dubai Jockey's Challenge

DUBAI (AP) — Ten of the world's best riders from Europe, Japan, Australia, the United States and the United Arab Emirates will compete in four races for the Dubai International Jockey's Challenge which starts Thursday.

Europe will be represented by champion jockeys of England and France, Lanfranco Dettori and Thierry Jarnet. Dettori had a fantastic year in 1994, not only winning his first Epsom Oaks and Irish Derby on Balanchine, the Breeders' Cup Mile on Baratheas and

the Prix De L'Abbaye de Longchamp on Lochsong.

Jarnet, retained for trainer Andre Fabre, has been champion jockey in France for the last three seasons. He won the Prix de L'Arc De Triomphe on Carnegie, owned by Gen. Sheik Mohammed Bin Rashid Al-Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and the U.A.E.'s minister of defense.

Japan will be represented by Yukio Okabe, who will have ridden in all three international challenges here, and Katsumi Minai. Okabe is the record holder for the highest number of wins in Japan,

breaking the old record of 2,016 earlier this year.

Minai rode five group one winners in 1994, including the triple crown on Narita Brian and the Japan Cup on Marvellous Crown.

Australia will be represented by Mick Dittman and Grant Cooksley. Dittman has won more than 3,000 races, including 85 at group one. He won the Melbourne Cup on Gunner's Lane in 1982 and the New Zealand Derby, the A.J.C. Metropolitan Handicap

and Ranwick and the Coronation Cup in Singapore during the last five months.

The American team will consist of last year's winner of this competition, Chris McCarron, and Pat Day. McCarron has won over 6,000 races and in 1994 won the Kentucky Derby on Go For Gin.

Day, who has won four Eclipse awards, has won eight Breeders' Cup races, including on Timber Country and Flanders in 1994.

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FINAL REMINDER J.U.S.T.

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The First Scientific Meeting of the Faculty of Dentistry

will be held on the J.U.S.T. campus on Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th March 1995 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. An interesting and varied programme has been arranged in which dental colleagues from the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland and Jordan will participate.

The Faculty of Dentistry of J.U.S.T. is pleased to invite all members of the dental profession and senior dental students to attend the meeting. Due to the generous support of the British Council no charge will be made for attendance.

Chinese coach admits beating athletes

SHANGHAI (R) — Chinese coach Ma Junren, trying to restore his image in a concentrated media campaign, has admitted he sometimes beats members of his elite running squad.

The squad fell apart last year when world 10,000 metres champion and record holder Wang Jinxia led a walkout after allegations that Ma had stolen team winning and abused his athletes in brutal training sessions.

In an interview with the Shanghai Liberation Daily, Ma said he had scolded and beaten his athletes.

"I must admit my management style was too simple sometimes. I would scold them or beat them when they were lazy or disobedient. But I only did it for their own good," Ma was quoted as saying.

"If we are not prepared to suffer bitterness... how can China catch up with world levels in track and field? How can we break world records? How can we win world championships? Ma was quoted as saying.

In the third of a three-part interview in Shanghai's Xinmin Evening Post published on Wednesday, Ma conceded that the "Ma family army" was unlikely to reform.

"The most important thing is that they walked away and their hearts no longer belong to the team. It would be very, very difficult to readjust," Ma said. "To be honest, it would be better to start from scratch."

He added that Wang and other rebels, including world 1,500 metres champion Liu Dong, had walked away with team funds, including its food money and there was nothing left to rebuild the squad.

During the interviews, Ma has sought public sympathy by recounting his personal tragedies since his dreams of leading his runners to higher glory were shattered. These include the death of his father, a car smash that put him in a wheelchair for a while, and lately bouts of appendicitis and stomach illnesses.

While admitting he pushed his athletes too far, Ma has defended himself by saying he did it out of a sense of patriotic duty.

"I, Ma Junren, have many shortcomings... but I have high regard for the glory of my country," he said, adding that he had turned down lucrative offers to coach and lecture overseas since the rupture.

He conceded that an incident in which he hurled Liu's baggage out of a hotel fifth-floor window in a fit of temper was "a mistake."

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Seles tells court that attack ruined her life

HAMBURG (AP) — Monica Seles told a court retrying the man who stabbed the former women's top-ranked tennis player her assailant deserved a stiffer sentence than probation for destroying her life.

"I was a 19-year-old girl when he tried to kill me. He didn't succeed but he destroyed my life," Seles said in a letter read after the start of Guenter Parche's retrial on Tuesday.

"I want proper justice. The attack tremendously and irreparably changed my life and stopped my tennis career," Seles said.

In the letter read by her lawyer, Gerhard Strate, Seles also confirmed that she would not come to testify. Her father might come next week, Strate said.

Parche stabbed Seles in the back while she sat on a bench during a changeover in a quarterfinal match against Magdalena Maleeva at a Hamburg Tournament on April 30, 1993. In October that year, he was convicted of causing grievous bodily harm and given a suspended two-year sentence.

The verdict outraged Seles and many who followed the trial. Both the prosecution and lawyers for Seles, who is a co-plaintiff, filed appeals and the prosecution took the case to a higher court.

Now 21, Seles has not played competitive tennis since the attack. Her father, Karolj, said in an interview Tuesday that she was playing tennis again but that memories of the attack still haunt her and that no date has been set for her return.

At the time of the attack, Seles was the undisputed queen of women's tennis, ranked No. 1 with eight Grand Slam titles and nearly \$7.5 million in earnings.

"The loss that Monica has had because of this incident, she can never get that back or never actually understand," Karolj Seles told the Sarasota Herald Tribune newspaper. The Seles family has a home in the Florida community.

Now 21, Seles was born in Novi Sad in the Serbian province of Vojvodina in former Yugoslavia. Although Serbian by birth, Seles is ethnic Hungarian by her roots and she has become a U.S. citizen since the attack.

Judge Gertraud Goering repeatedly questioned Parche whether Seles' Serbian background had anything to do with the attack. After his arrest, Parche told police he considered the Serbs as the "worst and greatest

danger for Europe."

Under early questioning, Parche told the judge he would not have plunged the kitchen knife into Seles' back if she had been a German or an American.

The judge confronted Parche with Seles' bloodied tennis dress and with the knife, which has a green plastic handle and a curved, 13-centimetre blade.

The court will try to determine whether Parche had really intended just to injure Seles, as he contends. Seles' lawyer hopes to convince the court to convict Parche of attempted murder or attempted manslaughter.

"This long knife irritates me, Mr. Parche. Why not a shorter one?" the judge said.

Parche, 40, said he did not strike Seles with full force, and only wanted to disable her long enough for German Steffi Graf to regain the No. 1 ranking from Seles.

Speaking in a heavy accent from his native East German state of Thuringia, where he lives with his aunt in the 1,300-population village of Goersbach, Parche told the court about his adoration of Graf, of continuing to write to her and to send money and flowers for her birthday.

But in a statement read by his lawyer, Parche also said he was "ashamed for stabbing Seles."

While Seles was dropped from the rankings because of her long inactivity, Graf regained the top spot, only to cede it to Arantza Sanchez Vicario after an injury break.

Graf would welcome Seles return

In Key Biscayne, Florida, Steffi Graf, the world's second ranked player, said Tuesday she would welcome the return of her old rival and former number one Monica Seles and would even share the top ranking with her.

Graf, who had just sailed through a 6-0 6-1 fourth-round thrumping of Austria's Judith Wiesner at the Lipton Championships, was asked about a published interview with Seles' father.

"Obviously I would love to see her at her highest level again," Graf said.

"I haven't talked to her for about a year or so. I think it would be nice to see her come back, but I think she probably needs a little time to get into tennis tournaments and get into feeling how it is to play again," Graf said.

Weightlifters face life bans after dope tests

BUDAPEST (R) — Two weightlifters, who tested positive for banned drugs at the Pan-American games face life-long suspensions, the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) said on Tuesday.

IWF general secretary Tamas Ajan said he had ordered the suspension of Peru's Rolando Marchinarez and Nelson Stanley of Honduras as soon as he heard they had tested positive for using anabolic steroids at the games.

"I will inform the IWF's disciplinary committee tomorrow and they will order a life-long suspension of the

two in line with the Federation's anti-doping policy," Ajan said.

The weightlifters and their national sporting bodies have the right of appeal.

Marchinarez finished fifth in the over 108-kg category and Stanley was sixth in the 91-kg class at the games. Games organisers said they had tested positive for the banned substance nandrolone.

Ajan told Reuters 40 athletes had been tested at the competition, which was also hit with doping problems in 1983 and 1987, and competitors from all countries attending had been tested.

Minister: FIBA indifferent to CSKA illness

ATHENS (R) — Greek sports minister George Lianis said on Tuesday the International Basketball Federation (FIBA) had shown little interest over the mysterious collapse of five CSKA Moscow players shortly before a key match last week.

"Until this moment we have heard nothing from FIBA, neither a question nor an inquiry, which means they probably don't consider the matter as seriously as we do," Lianis said.

An Athens hospital said earlier blood and urine tests on the CSKA players showed they were not poisoned, as had been claimed by the CSKA chairman Mikhail Reznikov.

The five were taken to hospital before last Thursday's European Champion Clubs' Cup quarter-final

against Olympiakos after collapsing with spasms and dizziness.

Olympiakos beat CSKA 79-54, with only three Russians on the court at one point, to secure a place in next month's final four competition in Zaragoza, Spain.

Lianis said he did not know what happened but FIBA had not asked for a doping test.

On Monday in Moscow, Reznikov said the players had been victims of "premeditated poisoning."

He said he himself had a thumping headache after baking just one sip from a bottle of water provided by the organisers.

Sports doctors in Athens said the players had low calcium levels which could be caused by various substances, including anabolic steroids.

National Rally sets off Friday

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Kingdom's top drivers are gearing up for Friday's start of the Diet Pepsi National Rally which marks the beginning of the 1995 auto sports season.

Twenty-two of the country's top drivers will be taking part, including 1994 Jordanian champion Bashar Bustami, runner up Mohammad Al Daoud and third placed Faris Bustami.

The rally will set off from the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ) headquarters in Amman and will be held on desert tracks south of Amman. The entire route will cover 231 kilometres including four special stages.

A three-minute interval separates the competitors in the special stages which require split second timing and driving skills.

Participating cars are divided into three groups depending on engine capacity.

Class 1: Cars with an engine capacity of 1600cc.

Class 2: Cars with an engine capacity of 1601-2500 cc.

Class 3: Cars with an engine capacity of over 2500 cc.

The national rally will be very beneficial for the Kingdom's drivers as the route is part of the first day of the Kingdom's most prestigious auto sports event — the Jordan International Rally which will be held in mid-May.

National rallies form an important part of the annual Jordan Drivers' Championship in which competitors gain points for each event they take part in. The rally, organised by (RACJ), is sanctioned by the International Auto Sports Federation.

The final results will be announced in a prize-giving ceremony Saturday evening.

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Tom Hanks in Forrest Gump		Andy Garcia — Mee Ryan in When A Man Loves A Woman		CONCORD '1' Comedian star: Adel Imam — Bakhit & Andadileh Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00 CONCORD '2' Jean-Claude Van Damme STREET FIGHTER Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:45, 11:00		Musa Hijazin "Sum'a" in the political satire Hi Citizen written and directed by Mohammad Al Shawagha daily on 8:30 p.m. The theatre closes on Monday — Haifa Al Agha in the children's play ☆☆ Sa'di's Return ☆☆		Presents Abu Awwad in the social comedy Punctured Bag The theatre is closed on Mondays Tickets are available all day		Presents: The political satire: AL SALAM YA SALAM at 8:30 p.m. For reservation, please call 625155 The theatre is closed Saturdays & Sunday.	

Magic take over league's best record as Indiana, New York and Phoenix lose

ORLANDO (R) — Dennis Scott scored 23 points off the bench, including five during a second-quarter run, as the Orlando Magic routed the Phoenix Suns 126-102 Tuesday.

Shaquille O'Neal and Grant Hill finished with 26 and 25 points, respectively, to help the Magic take over the league's best record from the Suns, improving to 49-17.

"We want to be the best," said the Orlando coach Brian Hill. "We have to beat the best."

Charles Barkley had 23 points and 11 rebounds for the Suns.

In Detroit, Allan Houston scored 28 points, Grant Hill 25, and the Detroit Pistons held the New Jersey Nets 101-82.

The Pistons also got 17 points from Lindsey Hunter and 16 and 12 rebounds from Glen Rice.

In Miami, Glen Rice scored 28 points, including a game-winning shot with 1.8 seconds left, as the Miami Heat held off the Indiana Pacers, 97-95.

"I looked at the clock, saw there were four seconds left," said Rice. "They'd be waiting for my jumper, so I showed them my new cross-over move. This is the first game we have won all season down the stretch. It's about time I have played like G-Money (his nickname)."

Kevin Willis contributed 19 points and 15 rebounds and Reeves had 17 points as the Heat won for the second time in eight games.

In New York, Larry Johnson scored 21 points and Alonzo Mourning added 18 and 15 rebounds to power the Charlotte Hornets to a 78-69 win over the Knicks.

The win combined with Indiana's loss to Miami moved Charlotte into first place in the Central Division.

Patrick Ewing had 35 points and 18 rebounds to lead the Knicks.

In Houston, Sam Perkins' hook shot late in the fourth quarter gave Seattle the lead for good and Nate McMillan made two steals 20 seconds apart in the final 1:30 as the Seattle SuperSonics hung on for a 104-102 victory over the Houston Rockets.

McMillan said, "I got to the spot and came up with the big steal."

Houston had one last chance to tie, but Vernon Maxwell's layup went off the rim as time expired.

In Milwaukee, Todd Day scored 33 points, including a string of 13 straight in the fourth quarter, as the Milwaukee Bucks beat the Golden State Warriors, 115-109.

"Todd Day carried us in the fourth quarter, he hit some big shots," said coach Mike Dunleavy.

"In games like this, someone has to step up and I did in the fourth quarter," added Day.

In Portland, Clifford Robinson scored 30 points as the Portland Trail Blazers edged the Washington Bullets, 109-106, for their fourth win in their last five games.

The Bullets pulled within two points twice, including 99-97 with 2:52 to play after Rex Chapman made a three-pointer. Washington had a chance to tie but Webber missed a jumper with 2:00 to play.

Rod Strickland added 26 points, making 16-of-17 from the foul line for Portland, which outscored the Bullets, 47-38.

NBA ROUNDUP

Hersey Hawkins netted 15 points and Muggsy Bogues had 12 for the Hornets.

"It's hard to beat a team like that three times in a row, it shows your maturity and determination, your will to win," said Mourning. "We want to send a message to

teams in general."

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RESULTS

Detroit	102	New Jersey	95
Miami	97	Indiana	95
Charlotte	78	New York	69
Orlando	126	Phoenix	102
Seattle	104	Houston	102
Milwaukee	115	Golden State	109
Portland	111	Washington	106

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Tapie verdict set for May 15

VALENCIENNES, France (R) — A French court trying former soccer boss Bernard Tapie on match-fixing charges said on Wednesday it would issue its verdict on May 15 — a week after the French presidential election.

The state prosecutor has demanded a jail sentence of 18 months, 12 of them suspended, against the former left-wing cabinet minister.

The prosecutor's request at the trial in the northern mining town of Valenciennes was the first formal call for Tapie, who faces a string of other legal actions over his collapsed business empire, to be sent to prison.

A self-made millionaire, Tapie was declared personally bankrupt and ineligible for public office for five years in December.

The court on Wednesday heard defence pleas on behalf of Tapie and five others accused of rigging a 1993 league game between Marseille and Valenciennes.

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Man claims to have sold cocaine to Reggie Lewis

BOSTON (AP) — A 23-year-old man said he sold cocaine to Reggie Lewis twice in 1988 in a New Bedford housing project, and a former teammate said he, Lewis and then-Maryland star Len Bias used cocaine in 1985.

The new allegations were reported in Boston newspapers on Tuesday.

Lewis was captain of the Boston Celtics when he collapsed and died while shooting baskets in July 1993.

Bias died of cocaine intoxication in 1986, hours after he was drafted in the first round of the National Basketball Association draft by the Celtics.

Lewis died of a heart ailment, and two doctors have said scars on his heart were consistent with cocaine use. The Celtics were to retire his number Wednesday night at halftime of a game with the Chicago Bulls.

But two former four-year teammates, close friends and fraternity brothers said Lewis never did drugs and blasted accusations by others that he did.

"There might have been different players on the squad that indulged in different things, but Reggie wasn't one of them," Wes Fuller, a co-captain with Lewis of the Northeastern team, told the Associated Press this morning. "It just wasn't in his makeup."

Robert Fonseca, 23, told the Boston Herald he sold four small packages of cocaine to Lewis for \$100 in June or July 1988 in a New Bedford housing project and several weeks later sold him cocaine for \$70.

Fonseca, a high school dropout, has a record of drug and property crimes and spent 19 months in prison for drug trafficking.

The allegation linking Lewis and Bias in cocaine use was made to the Boston Globe Wednesday night by Derrick Lewis, who played with Reggie Lewis, not a



Reggie Lewis

relative, on the Northeastern University basketball team.

Derrick Lewis said he, Reggie Lewis, Bias and another player used cocaine in the summer of 1985 in a McDonald's restaurant in Marshfield, less than one mile from a Celtics rookie camp. Reggie Lewis was a sophomore at Northeastern at the time.

Reggie Lewis' widow, Donna Harris-Lewis, has said her late husband did not use cocaine.

To Members of, Jordanian Scandinavian Friendship Association

Members of JSFA are kindly reminded to do their best to attend the Annual General Meeting which will be held on Saturday March 25th, 1995 at 18:00 HRS. at Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental, (and not at the Royal Automobile Club) as previously mentioned in the invitation.

Your support by attending will be greatly appreciated
The Board Directors

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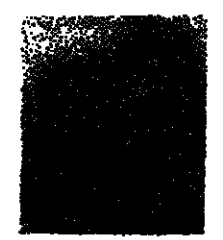
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